

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Volume 17 Number 5320

AMMAN SUNDAY, MAY 30, 1993 THUL HIJAH 9, 1413

Price: 150 Fils

Yemen's main parties sign coalition pact

SANAA (R) — Leaders of Yemen's three main parties agreed Saturday to end political wrangling and form a coalition government after multi-party elections last month. Official Sanaa Radio said President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Ali Salem Al Baith and Sheikh Abdullah Hussein Al Ahmar signed a "document for the formation of a coalition government" and parliamentary coordination among their parties. The document said the three agreed to form a coalition government "taking into consideration the weight of each party in the coalition." Mr. Saleh leads the General People's Congress (GPC). Mr. Baith leads the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) and Mr. Ahmar the Islamic Yemeni Gathering for Reform (YGR), known by its Arabic name Islah. (Low turnout for elections, page 2).

No decision yet on further peace talks

AMMAN (R) — Arab states negotiating peace with Israel will decide at a coordination meeting in Amman on June 6 whether to attend a further round of Middle East talks in Washington, Jordan's new prime minister said Saturday. Abdul Salam Al Majali, sworn in by King Hussein earlier in the day as prime minister and foreign minister, said the meeting of Arab foreign ministers would assess progress in the previous nine rounds of talks and prospects for any more. "We will conduct an evaluation of what has happened... and will then make a decision," Dr. Majali told Reuters. An Egyptian newspaper said on Saturday that Arab states have already decided to attend a further round of peace talks in Washington to begin on June 14. The previous rounds have made limited progress, prompting a growing call from Palestinians to abandon the talks.

27-member Majali government is sworn in

King mandates new Cabinet with overseeing elections, pursuing peace and maintaining development

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Chief Jordanian delegate to the Arab-Israeli peace talks Abdul Salam Al Majali was Saturday sworn in as head of a caretaker government entrusted with the main task of overseeing the country's first multi-party parliamentary elections in nearly three decades.

Dr. Majali's 27-member Cabinet replaces that of outgoing Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who submitted his resignation Thursday. Sharif Zeid's government included 15 ministers who plan to contest the next elections but are constitutionally banned from doing so while still in office.

His Majesty King Hussein formally appointed Dr. Majali to head the new government on Saturday.

Dr. Majali, who had held several ministerial posts in the past and served as an army officer and president of the University of Jordan, retained the key portfolios of defence and foreign affairs for himself in the new government of technocrats and bureaucrats that include two Christians and six Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

No official announcement has been made on who will replace Dr. Majali as head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, but officials expected Ambassador in Washington Faysal Tarawneh to lead the team.

In a letter of designation to Dr. Majali, who does not need a vote of confidence from Parliament which ended its last ordinary session in March, the

King said he appointed Dr. Majali as prime minister of "the government of a new era that will conduct elections," scheduled to take place later this year.

"And as I entrust you and the new government with this national task, I am sure... that you will be extremely careful to take all possible, suitable and required measures to hold the elections in the basis of the Constitution," King Hussein told Dr. Majali.

The King also asked the new prime minister to facilitate the participation of all eligible voters in the elections which he said should be the fairest and most comprehensive.

"All voters should be reminded of their responsibility towards the country and people, and that their votes should be given to the best qualified whose purpose and objective is the service of the country," King Hussein told Dr. Majali. (see full text of King's letter on page 5)

"The government will strive to hold the elections in an atmosphere of fairness and (will work to ensure) the participation of all in the elections without discrimination," Dr. Majali said in his letter of acceptance.

Dr. Majali said the government will ensure equality for all citizens in rights and obligations and will emphasise citizens' responsibilities to participate in the elections and vote for those who can serve their country and their future.

In addition to mandating Dr. Majali with holding the elections, the King instructed the new Cabinet to guard the country's democratic process, protect human rights, reform



His Majesty King Hussein with the Cabinet sworn in Saturday headed by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali (Petra photo)

the bureaucracy, develop the economy and human resources, seek improved Arab relations and pursue a just and comprehensive Middle East peace, among other things.

Dr. Majali pledged that his government's commitments to all domestic and foreign policy outlines included in the King's letter of designation.

"We are entering a new democratic Arab and Jordanian era to which we are all contributing on the basis of justice, dignity and human rights, and building its institutions in accordance with law," the King told Dr. Majali in the 13-page letter of designation.

The King said the democratisation process, which was a

Jordanian choice not meant to outbid others, came out of a long belief in its viability and was started at the suitable time. He pointed to the National Charter, which he said was adopted by all Jordanians and drew the features of the new era on the basis of respect for the Constitution, and equality for all in rights and obligations.

He said the policies of the new era are predicated on the support of justice, "forgiveness from which firmness is not absent," a foreign policy based on cooperation, mutual respect and non-interference in the domestic affairs of other countries as well as commitment to human rights and international

regimes which "we hope the United Nations will translate through deep changes in its structure so that it would become a human organisation reflecting the realities of today, and not continue to represent an old order whose bases have fallen."

Dr. Majali said the government will work towards the achievement of the goals of this era and will defend the country against what he called attempts to harm the democratic process.

The King urged the building of the state of law in which balance would exist among the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

"We want a developed, effective and dynamic executive authority... and we want a (bureaucracy) filled with the most qualified," not one paralysed by favouritism, red tape and fear of shouldering responsibility, the King told Dr. Majali.

He called for the development of human resources saying that assigning leading positions to able people is essential, and pinpointing the need for supporting and re-assessing the foreign service department and the development of the media.

In order to build a credible media, the King said, Jordan needs to develop a new genera-

Cabinet list

Prime Minister: (also Minister of Defence, Foreign Affairs) — Abdul Salam Al Majali

Ministers:
Agriculture Marwan Kamal
Communications and Postal Affairs Tareq Subeimat
Culture Mahmoud Samra
Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari
Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour
Finance Minister Sami Qarawo
Health Abdul Rahim Malhas
Information Ma'an Abu Nowar
Interior Salameh Hammud
Justice Rafeh Al Wazani
Labour Khaled Al Ghazawi
Municipal, Rural and Environmental Affairs Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan
Planning Ziad Fariz
Public Works and Housing Khalaf Hawari
Religious Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi
Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour
Supply Rami Ibrahim
Tourism and Antiquities Yanal Hikmat
Trade and Industry Bassam Al Saket
Transport Salman Al Tarawneh
Water and Irrigation Bassam Kakish
Youth Abdullah Oweidat

Ministers of State:

Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan
Legal Affairs Khaled Al Zou'bi
Minister of State for Prime Ministry Jawad Al Anani
Minister of State Ahmad Al Akaleh

tion of journalists and a press that can shoulder its responsibility in a reasonable and balanced manner, steps which Dr. Majali said his government will take.

Referring to inter-Arab relations, King Hussein said Jordan supports any steps that consolidate closer Arab ties. Dr. Majali said his government will work towards forging Arab

(Continued on page 3)

See page 3 for profile of members of the new Cabinet

King expresses deep appreciation of Sharif Zeid Cabinet's achievements

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's government, and sent the outgoing premier a message expressing his appreciation for the efforts of his 26-member cabinet since it took office in October 1991.

The King's message said: "You have shouldered responsibility and upheld the trust faithfully, and, together with your colleagues, executed your duties in a manner that won the favour and support of the Jordanian people."

The King praised Sharif Zeid as a man who followed in the footsteps of the Hashemite ancestors in upholding the standards of the Great Arab Revolt and its principles and mission.

The King said that the Sharif Zeid Cabinet shouldered responsibility at a very critical stage, and succeeded in accomplishing ma-

for achievements like the Political Parties and the Press and Publications Law, and the abolition of martial law as well as the restructuring of the national economy and contributions to the ongoing peace process.

Sharif Zeid said in his resignation letter that he was satisfied that the outgoing government had made major achievements towards fulfilling the mandate and the programme set by the King in his letter of designation in October 1991.

"My colleagues and I were honoured to shoulder the responsibility and work, under your command and wise directions, to build the new Jordanian society, enjoying free expression, political pluralism and security under the rule of law," said Sharif Zeid.

Sharif Zeid said that the national economy achieved 11 per cent growth in 1992, a year which witnessed a major increase

in the role of the private sector which further enhanced economic progress and stability.

Economic activity continued to increase in the first quarter of 1993 stability in the rate of exchange of the Jordanian dinar was maintained and an increase in the foreign currency reserves was achieved, Sharif Zeid said.

King confers medal on Jandaneh, page 3

The outgoing premier said that for the first time in the Kingdom's history, local revenues covered all current expenses and contributed by 50 per cent to the capital expenditure for the current year.

He said that the outgoing government was able to reduce the volume of foreign indebtedness by \$800 million, while the 1992 rate of inflation did not rise above four per cent.

Furthermore, he said, the government succeeded in improving administrative reform.

At the same time, he said, the government, following the King's directives, continued to provide all possible assistance to the Palestinian people and worked towards cementing Jordan's ties with Arab and Islamic states.

Later in the day, King Hussein received at the Royal Court Sharif Zeid and his Cabinet colleagues and voiced his appreciation of their efforts during their mandate.

"You have carried out your duty and lived up to expectations and therefore you deserve all appreciation," King Hussein said.

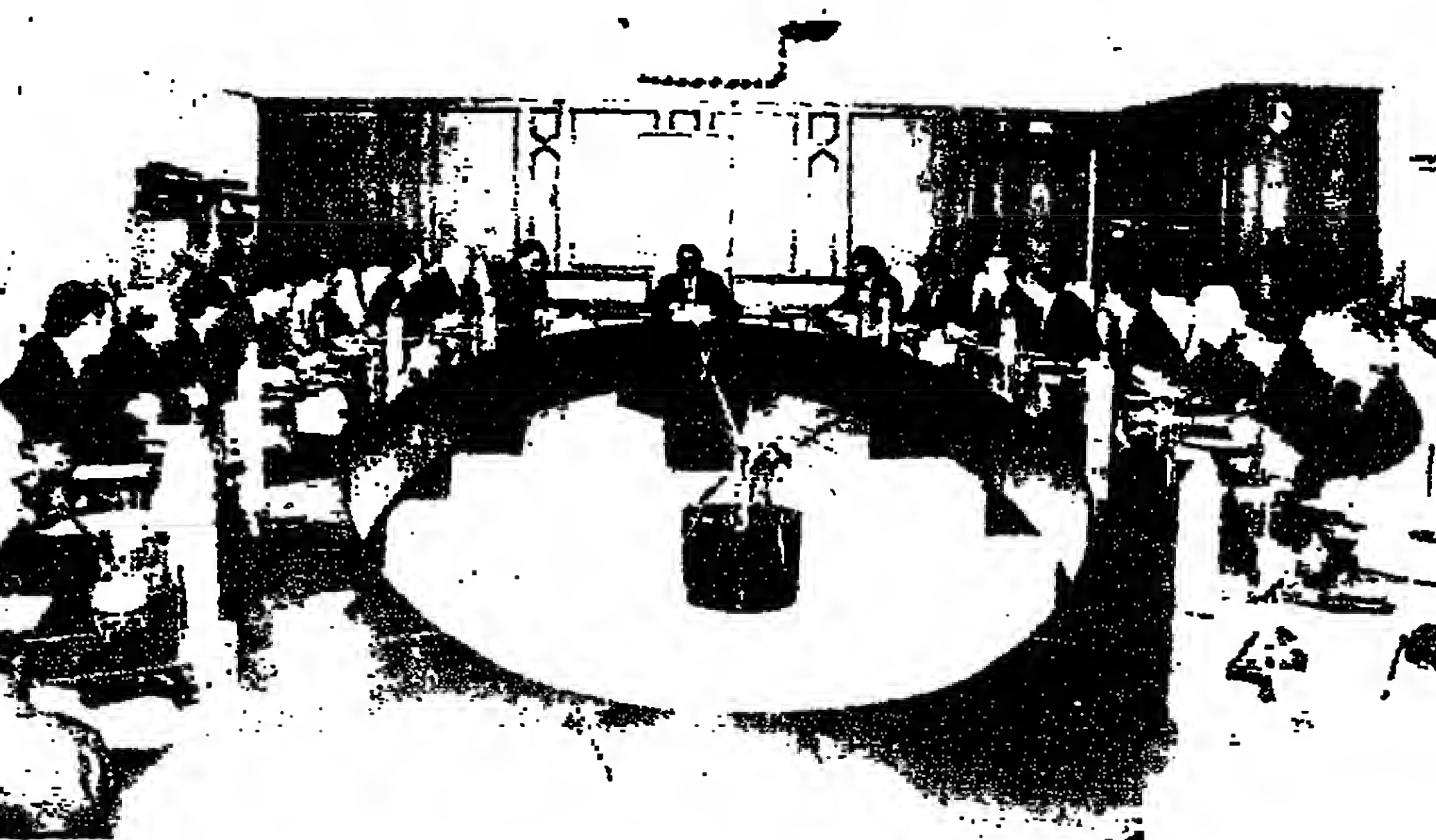
"We are now at the threshold of a new stage in which many of the outgoing Cabinet members are preparing to the coming parliamentary elections which we hope would mark another step

forward for Jordan — a step that makes voters feel their votes are of importance and voting is of paramount importance to the nation," King Hussein said.

Reiterating that the general elections will be held on schedule, the King expressed hope that the polls will constitute a qualitative step forward. The King also reaffirmed that Jordan had chosen the way of democracy and political pluralism to be followed in the spirit of the Constitution and the National Charter and respect for human rights.

"We aim for success because failure would be detrimental for all while success of this experiment will extend beyond Jordan's geographical borders," the King said.

Sharif Zeid said that he and his colleagues appreciated the continued support extended by the King throughout the 18 months of their mandate and they took



Outgoing Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker chairs the last session of his Cabinet Saturday (Petra photo)

pride in this support and achievements. Sharif Zeid and his successor Abdul Salam Majali met briefly

at the Prime Ministry shortly before the announcement of the new government. Sharif Zeid later chaired the Cabinet for the

last session expressing appreciation to the ministers for their close cooperation during the past 18 months.

New Cabinet seen unlikely to herald major long-term policy changes

Door kept open for amending Election Law; commitment to Mideast peace process underlined

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Other than the obvious message of the Kingdom's continued commitment to the Middle East peace process, the make-up of the newly appointed Cabinet of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and the terms of its mandate reassert its caretaker nature as a temporary government unlikely to introduce any major change in long-term national policies.

Unless the government uses its prerogative to amend the national Election Law, analysts and observers agree, the mandate of Dr. Majali's government will concentrate

on pursuing established policies and programmes until November when the new Parliament convenes.

Two factors contribute to this conclusion. One, analysts maintain is the time limit — five months until November — and, two, Dr. Majali's choice of portfolios and appointees.

"This is a temporary government which has a specific purpose and that is to hold elections," a former minister told the Jordan Times. "It will not have time to introduce something new or to be innovative."

He and other analysts believe that Dr. Majali's decision not to appoint any deputy premiers and to upgrade several secretary-generals to the post

of ministers indicated that he expected the ministers only to carry out instructions rather than formulate policies.

Exceptions to these are the appointments of Dr. Maan Abu Nowar, a political science graduate from Oxford University, as information minister, and Dr. Jawad Anani, a well-known economist and politician, as minister of state for prime ministry affairs.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Dr. Majali's Cabinet, observers say, has three terams of politicians and experts in three main areas: the peace process, the economy and elections.

One, headed by Dr. Majali himself in his capacity as fore-

ign minister, will deal primarily with the Middle East peace talks. That team includes Dr. Anani and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan, both of whom were members of the Jordanian negotiating team in Washington.

The second team includes the ministers charged with continuing the country's economic and financial policies which are very unlikely to witness any change especially that the new member to the team, Finance Minister Sami Gammoo, is only expected to follow and apply the policies that were already set by his predecessor Basel Jandaneh that mainly include fulfilling the teams of agree-

ments with the International Monetary Fund and other international lending agencies.

The third team, the most likely to introduce change, is the "elections" team, that would oversee the main task of the caretaker government.

Interior Minister Salameh Hammud, who supervised the last parliamentary elections in 1989 while serving as under-secretary of the Ministry of Interior, is being supported by at least two ministers who have served at one point or another as Legal advisors or senior officials at the ministry. The two are minister of State Ahmad Akaleh, who has served as secretary general of the Ministry of Interior and

Minister of State for legal Affairs Khalid Al Zoubi, who served as deputy governor at the ministry before he received a doctorate in public law and became an associate professor at University of Jordan.

Although King Hussein did not directly call for a change in the elections law in his letter of designation of Premier Majali, that possibility was not ruled out either. Analysts believe that the King left that option open for the government and that the appointment of a minister of state for legal affairs — a new portfolio that seems to contradict with the Ministry of Justice — may indicate that a change of the law was possible.

Analysts also believe that Dr. Majali has appointed an elections team that can withstand political pressure if it called for a change in the Election Law.

"The new premier himself is known to be someone who can take tough decisions and his team for the elections are the kind of men who will execute such a change if needed," a well-placed former official said.

The fact that Dr. Majali did not need the blessing of the Lower House of Parliament and therefore did not try to include ministers from the different array of political orientations in the country may have contributed to a criticism

of its makeup as "too bland." Apart from a few technocrats, most of the other ministers were described as "bureaucrats who will act as employees." What adds to this criticism is that the premier did not name a strong diplomat to the Foreign Ministry post preferring to add that post to his duties as prime minister and minister of defence.

"The premier looks to be juggling too many responsibilities and allocating less to others in his Cabinet," an analyst said, adding, however, that this was only a first impression and actual practice may bring more decentralisation of authority.

Sudanese rebels sign accord on 'safe havens'

NAIROBI (R) — Sudan's two main feuding rebel factions have signed a landmark agreement creating a demilitarised "safe haven" where thousands of starving southerners could receive food and humanitarian supplies.

A statement issued after talks in the Kenyan capital Nairobi said both sides would immediately begin withdrawing their forces from within 72-kilometre radius of the southern hamlets of Ayod, Kongor, Waat and Yuai.

The area, dubbed by aid workers the "starvation triangle", is controlled by the two main factions of the Sudan's People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"No military personnel will be permitted to come into this entire demilitarised area, and there will be no hindrance whatsoever to the humanitarian relief effort to the United Nations," it said.

The statement was signed by John Kong Nyong of the mainstream SPLA, led by John Garang, and Simon Mori Didumo of the breakaway SPLA-United in the presence of Washington's ambassador to Sudan, Donald Pettersen, who brokered the accord.

The United States has been the loudest critic of factional fighting between the rebels and Mr. Pettersen has accused them of callous disregard for the people they say they represent.

The statement said the pullout from the area where an estimated 50,000 people are on the edge of extinction had to be completed by June 5, but it was not clear if

U.N. observers would then police the newly demilitarised zone.

It was also not clear what guarantee Washington had given the rebels that Sudan government forces would not move in.

The two factions, united until last year in a 10-year war against the government in northern Sudan, pledged to guarantee the safety of all relief workers and their property in the area.

The agreement will be seen as a breakthrough in efforts to stop suffering to thousands caught up in a vicious internal SPLA power struggle which broadly follows tribal lines.

The statement made no mention of a general ceasefire, but committed both sides to more talks.

"Dialogue on further demilitarisation will continue on a bilateral basis," it said.

Khartoum, which originally opposed the "safe haven" concept as an infringement of sovereignty, came under strong pressure from Washington to abandon hopes of a military solution. This year it held off from launching the usual dry-season offensive.

"The Sudan government is terrified of a Somalia-style intervention," said the U.N. source. Last year U.S. troops led the international operation to protect relief work in Somalia.

Visitors returning to the Kenyan capital Nairobi from the "starvation triangle" said internal SPLA fighting over the last two months had created a humanita-

rian nightmare.

"People, little more than skin and bone, are dying of hunger every day. Those too young or too old to flee fighting have been massacred. Aid compounds have been destroyed," said Rory Nugent, a journalist working for the U.S. magazine Rolling Stone.

Delegates to the talks in Nairobi said Mr. Pettersen flew earlier this week to the area held by Riek Machar, leader of the SPLA's "Nasir" faction, to secure his backing for the proposal after winning approval from the mainstream SPLA faction.

Former Sudanese army Colonel Garang's mainstream faction had previously held out against the idea.

Independent analysts say the switch came after Col. Garang's men tried to eliminate Machar's faction last month in an offensive which outraged the international aid community.

Col. Garang is touring Western Europe in an attempt to regain lost support after the failure this month of peace talks between his faction and the Khartoum government.

Earlier this week the United Nations appointed a special envoy to Sudan, saying one million people, about a quarter of all the people in the south, were at risk of starvation.

The envoy, Vieri Traxler of Italy, said he would soon visit Sudan and neighbouring nations in an attempt to focus more world attention on Sudan's tragedy.



RUSHDIE PROTESTS: Turkish riot police throw down a demonstrator during a Muslim fundamentalist rally against the Turkish newspaper Aydinlik. The protest erupted after the paper began running extracts of Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" last Wednesday. According to police some 40 people were arrested. In the meantime Turkish authorities have begun seizing copies of the leftist newspaper (AFP photo).

Khamenei slams S. Arabia over Haj

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei lambasted Saudi Arabia Saturday for banning a political rally during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, saying Muslims have a right to express their opinions.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Mr. Khamenei as saying in a letter to his pilgrim representative, Mohammad Mohammadi Rezaei, the "bitter, irresponsible and illogical move of the Saudi government was surprising and deplorable."

Iran said Saudi riot police backed by armoured vehicles and helicopters imposed a virtual state of siege around the offices of Iran's haj mission in Mecca to stop people from gathering for a planned "deliverance from infidels" rally Thursday.

Saudi Arabia has regularly warned against political agitation during the haj, or pilgrimage, which reaches its climax Sunday when as many as two million Muslims from around the world gather to pray at Mount Arafat where the Prophet Mohammad gave his last sermon.

Mr. Khamenei said the Saudi government had no right to ban the ceremony, normally marked by anti-American and anti-Israeli slogans.

"It is not acceptable to me that a government which has undertaken to serve the haj pilgrims prevents the holding of a ceremony which is aimed at Muslim unity and dignity of Islamic Nations and which demonstrates hatred towards the arrogant powers and enemies of the Islamic world," he wrote.

Iranian pilgrims have in the past two years held peaceful rallies outside their haj offices without interference by the Saudi authorities. The rallies were held under a deal in 1990 that allowed Iranian pilgrims to return to the

haj after a three-year boycott.

They stayed away from more than 400 people, mainly Iranians, were killed in a 1987 clash with Saudi security forces trying to bar a rally in central Mecca.

In a strongly worded Saudi statement released earlier Saturday, the conservative kingdom, home to Islam's holiest sites, defended its ban and stressed its determination to stop political agitation during the haj and prevent acts that may threaten its security.

Saudi Arabia "would like to reiterate its categorical rejection of the holding of marches and gatherings in general and...chanting slogans and carrying pictures and flags, especially during the haj," the statement said.

The statement, which did not say why the authorities moved against the Iranians this year, said Saudi Arabia "will not allow anyone at any time to violate the teachings of Islam on its soil and carry out any action which threatens the security of the state. We shall never put up with it."

Iran had earlier accused Saudi Arabia of bowing to U.S. pressure and weakening Muslim unity by banning Iranian pilgrims from holding the planned anti-American rally in Mecca.

"The Saudi government, under U.S. pressure, prevented the divine...ceremony from taking place," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement Friday.

Tehran radio reported from Mecca that Saudi security forces Friday removed roadblocks around Iran's haj headquarters in the holy city, more than 24 hours after they were erected.

"Haj is a divine-political ritual and Muslims take advantage of their annual gathering by the house of God to protest against oppression of Muslims around the world," said the ministry

statement, quoted by Tehran radio.

The pilgrims wanted to protest primarily against "genocide of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina," and the Saudi action "weakened unity of Muslims," it said.

Mr. Rezaei said pilgrims had heeded his calls for calm in the face of the "unjustifiable" Saudi action and no clashes had occurred.

He sent a message to Mr. Khamenei, saying the Iranian pilgrims were "ready to carry out instructions of that great leader," Tehran radio said.

Relations between the two major oil producers which are ruled by rival sects of Islam have greatly improved in the past two years.

They hit a low point in 1987 when 402 people, mostly Iranians, were killed in riots which erupted when Saudi police tried to stop an Iranian demonstration in Mecca.

Both countries spoke earlier this month of a desire for closer ties after Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati visited Riyadh for talks with King Fahd and other Saudi leaders.

Tehran first formally protested to Saudi Arabia Thursday when it summoned the Saudi ambassador to the foreign ministry.

Speakers at Tehran's Friday prayers the main political gathering in the Iranian capital, condemned the Saudi ban in relatively mild terms.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a hardliner, touched on the matter only briefly in the main sermon, saying Muslims were "disturbed" by the ban.

"Whom does this action make happy? Our enemies — who are also the enemies of Arabs and Muslims. They are the ones who have unsheathed their swords to fight Islam," he said.

Markets bustle as war-racked Kabul prepares for festival

KABUL (AP) — Markets bustled and shoppers carted home sheep, clothes and sweets Saturday, hoping to celebrate a Muslim festival during a ceasefire between warring Islamic factions.

"Beg, borrow or steal, we must celebrate. That is the only way to keep the mind off the war," said Mohammad Qasim, a jobless man who borrowed money from a friend to buy cloth for his son.

At least 1,300 people have been killed in Kabul in fighting this month among Muslim guerrillas who seized the government last year.

Another 6,500 people have been injured, mostly civilians caught in the barrage of rockets. Large parts of the city, including government buildings and big

shops, have been devastated.

Setting aside the fear of war hanging over Kabul despite the week-old ceasefire, residents thronged the Khair Khana market to buy sheep for the three-day Eid-1-Quorban Holiday beginning Monday.

Muslims traditionally fatten and kill a sheep during Eid, donate one-third of the meat to the poor, give the same portion to relatives and feast on the remaining meat.

Despite high prices, one sheep sold for 40,000 Afghanis (\$40) or one month's salary of an average blue collar worker.

In the ancient Labe-Darya Bazaar, businessmen set up stalls on the roads as they did in peace time, selling raisins, almonds, pistachio, cookies, cloth, vegetables

and jewelry.

"There will be no sheep this time in our house, but we will wish each other in the family and feel happy," said Qasim, who used to work as a government clerk.

Since the guerrillas took over the country from a Soviet-backed government in April 1992, government offices have mostly been shut. Many were bombed out in the fighting.

After coming to power, differences between guerrilla leaders exploded into all-out civil war. The fighting this month in Kabul was between the forces of Prime Minister-Designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood over political supremacy.

Faltering Cyprus talks to resume Tuesday

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Talks between the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, generally believed to be going badly, will resume next Tuesday in the presence of the five permanent members of the Security Council, both sides said.

"The secretary-general has decided to call a meeting Tuesday and has informed us that he will ask the representatives of the permanent members to attend," Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides said.

He and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, who provided the same information, spoke separately with reporters after meeting together for more than an hour with Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

The next session was scheduled for Tuesday because the United Nations will be closed Monday for the United States Memorial Day holiday.

Representatives of the five permanent Security Council members — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China — were present when the talks opened Monday, to stress the need for progress.

Their reappearance next Tuesday is apparently aimed at adding further pressure.

The talks mark the latest phase of long-running efforts to reunite the divided Mediterranean island under a federal system.

The focus during the past week has been on a number of measures designed to build confidence between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, at loggerheads since a joint administration collapsed in late 1963, three years after Cyprus gained independence from Britain.

The confidence-building measures include placing part of the uninhabited resort town of Varosha under U.N. administration and reopening Nicosia Airport, also under U.N. control.

Both have ceased to function since Turkish troops landed in the north of the island in 1974, after a coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Neither Mr. Clerides nor Mr. Denktaş would comment on the substance of the talks since both sides are bound by a news blackout. But sources close to the negotiations said they had been going badly.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Alecos Michaelides said Wednesday serious problems had arisen which prompted him to hold separate meetings with each of the five permanent council mem-

bers.

The current round of talks had been expected to conclude by the week-end, when Dr. Ghali is scheduled to leave on a month-long trip to North Africa and Europe.

Mr. Denktaş had also hoped to return home before the start of the Muslim holiday next Tuesday.

A U.N. spokesman said the secretary-general would go ahead with his trip. It was presumed Tuesday's meeting would be chaired by one of the senior U.N. officials also taking part.

They include former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark, recently appointed Dr. Ghali's special representative for Cyprus, and Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding.

When the talks opened last Monday, Mr. Denktaş was reported to have said that, in return for agreeing to transfer part of Varosha to U.N. control, he wanted the lifting of a Greek Cypriot embargo against Turkish Cypriot airports and seaports and against sports and cultural contacts.

Mr. Denktaş said the embargo was the main source of mistrust between the two sides.

Fate of missing Kuwaitis haunts emirate

KUWAIT (AP) — Mastura Al Hamad tore her eyes away from the photographs of her brother and her three nephews and sobbed: "The look in their eyes shatters me. I feel they're imploring me for help. But there's nothing I can do."

The four men are part of a nightmare that still haunts Kuwait nearly 2 1/2 years after allied forces liberated from Iraq — 850 missing men, women and children, whose fate remains a mystery.

There has been no word of them since they disappeared during the seven-month Iraq occupation, beyond the occasional report of months-old sightings.

"I sometimes feel that everybody's life went back to normal when liberation came, except for ours," said Mastura.

When she sees starving Bosnian prisoners on television or

Palestinian deportees shivering in their tents in South Lebanon, she almost envies their families.

"At least they get to see them on the TV news and know they're alive," the 32-year-old housewife said despondently.

"We know absolutely nothing about our missing prisoners and we can only dream about receiving letters from them."

Her brother and nephews were arrested by Iraqi troops in late August 1990, three weeks after the Iraqi army invaded the emirate.

The four men had taken their frightened families to neighbouring Saudi Arabia and were driving back to Kuwait across the desert when they were captured.

Kuwait claims that the Iraqis, driven out of the emirate on Feb. 26, 1991, are still holding the 850, possibly as bargaining counters when negotiations eventually

start on war reparations.

Most are civilians arbitrarily snatched from their homes and mosques during the occupation. About 200 are mostly stateless Arabs and some Asians who were living in Kuwait when the Iraqis invaded.

Iraq released more than 6,000 prisoners after the Gulf War, but insists it holds no more people from Kuwait. It refuses to allow the International Red Cross access to its prisoners.

But some Kuwaitis who have been freed say they were held in Iraq with countrymen who have not yet been accounted for.

Bader Hussein was 19 when he was seized.

His aunt, Aysha Hassan, 52, raised him like a son and says she has lost interest in living since he disappeared. She has had no word of him since then.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spanish king ends Turkey visit

ISTANBUL (R) — Spanish King Juan Carlos ended a three-day state visit to Turkey Friday after holding an historic meeting with leaders of a Jewish community whose ancestors were expelled from Spain 500 years ago. The meeting was the first between a Spanish monarch and Turkey's Sephardic Jews since Fernando and Isabel, the Catholic king and queen of Spain, expelled the Jews in 1492. King Juan Carlos received Jewish leaders and directors of a quinquennial foundation formed to commemorate the arrival of the Jews. Most of Turkey's 25,000 Jews are Sephardim, many of whom still speak Ladino, a Judeo-Spanish tongue. King Juan Carlos was accompanied by Queen Sofia, Industry Minister Claudio Aranzadi and undersecretary of foreign affairs Maximino Cagal. Later in the day, King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia shopped in Istanbul's famed Covered Bazaar. They also visited the 16th century Suleyman Mosque, built by Ottoman Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent, and toured the Kariye Cami, an 11th century church that is now a museum best known for its Byzantine frescoes. The Anatolian News Agency reported that the royal couple left for home Friday night.

New York blast suspects plead innocent

NEW YORK (R) — Five men charged with the fatal bombing of the World Trade Centre pleaded innocent Friday to charges that could keep them in prison for life. The men were named Wednesday in an eight-count indictment that accuses them of planning and carrying out the Feb. 26 blast that killed six and injured more than 1,000. The defendants are Mahmud Abu Halima, 33, Ahmad Ajaj, 27, Bilal Alkai, 27, Nidal Ayyad, 25, Halima, 33, Ahmad Ajaj, 27, Bilal Alkai, 27, Nidal Ayyad, 25, and Mohammad Salameh, 25. A sixth defendant, Ramzi Yousef, 25, has been indicted in the case but remains a fugitive. The government has charged that Mr. Salameh had rented a storage shed in Jersey City, New Jersey, that contained the explosives believed used in the bombing. The newest indictment also discloses that Mr. Yousef, a fugitive, had ordered explosives on Nov. 30, 1992, to be delivered to the shed. The government has alleged that Mr. Yousef and Mr. Ajaj travelled from Pakistan to the United States together on Sept. 1, 1992, and that Mr. Ajaj carried manuals on explosives. The new document also alleges that Mr. Salameh accepted three tanks of hydrogen at the shed the day before the bombing and placed a call to Mr. Ayyad the same day. The details included an allegation that Mr. Salameh, accompanied by Mr. Yousef, drove to a gas station on Feb. 26 in the van believed to have been used in the explosion. Mr. Abu Halima allegedly drove a car to the same service station and paid for the gas put in both vehicles.

Turkish publishing house ransacked

ISTANBUL (R) — Muslim militants clashed with police and rampaged through an Istanbul publishing house Friday in protest against publication of Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses," a newspaper editor said. The Kaynak Publishing House is owned by the left-wing Aydinlik newspaper, in which excerpts of the British author's controversial novel began appearing Wednesday. The book has been banned by the government since 1989. This was an attack we had been expecting," said Aydinlik editor Ferit Ilsever. "We have been receiving hundreds of threats each day." He said about 1,000 fundamentalists ransacked the publishing house in central Istanbul after Friday prayers, badly injuring three workers. Two other nearby shops were also damaged. Wielding sticks and shouting anti-Rushdie slogans, the demonstrators clashed with police, the Anatolian News Agency reported. It said several persons, including policemen, were injured. Police detained scores of the demonstrators after chasing them through the narrow streets of the old city, it said. Threats by an Islamic fundamentalist group, Hizbollah (Party of God), blocked distribution of the newspaper in nine provinces in southeast Turkey, Mr. Ilsever said. The public prosecutor ordered police to seize copies of the newspaper in Istanbul for breaking the publication ban.

Khomeini: Media can criticise government

NICOSIA (R) — Ahmed Khomeini, influential son of Iran's late spiritual leader, has urged Iranian media not to hold back from criticising government mistakes. But Mr. Khomeini, whose father Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned from exile to lead Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, made clear that there were limits to this freedom. "The idea that weakpoints should not be exposed because it would weaken the Islamic Republic (Iran) was a mistake," he was quoted as saying at a meeting with top executives of the Iranian news agency (IRNA). "On the contrary, to criticise an improper move or policy would be support for the Islamic Republic," IRNA quoted him as saying. It did not say when the meeting took place. His defence of press freedom comes amid complaints by officials that state-controlled radio and television and IRNA and many private newspapers and magazines may undermine the revolution by their open criticism of government actions, especially over the troubles in the economy. But Mr. Khomeini qualified his remarks. IRNA said he told top executives the yardstick for deciding if something was true or false was "the guidelines of the revolution's leader, noting that instructions of the leadership were the final word in all fields." Iranian news organisations must make sure that "neither the Islamic Revolution nor the republic be deviated from their real path," he added.

'Low turnout in Yemeni elections'

SANAA (R) — Only 27.7 per cent of eligible voters turned out in Yemen's first multi-party elections last month, a Yemeni weekly said. al-Thawri (The Revolutionary), organ of the central committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), published for the first time in its Thursday issue detailed figures on the April 27 elections. The statistics showed that 2,271,185 Yemenis voted in government drive only 628,131 who were eligible. Despite a fewer than 500,000 women and 417,138 did not vote. The figures showed that President Ali Abdullah Saleh's party, the General People's Congress (GPC), won 28 per cent of the vote, followed by the YSP with 25 per cent and the Islamist alliance, Yemen Gathering For Reform (Islah), got 17 per cent. In the YSP bastion Aden, the Socialists took 59 per cent of the vote of YSP members who ran as independent candidates won a further 20 per cent. In the capital Sanaa, the GPC took 37 per cent of the vote, followed by 25 per cent for Islah and 15 per cent for the YSP.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Les Cils de Fort Boyard
18:00	News in French
19:15	Le Journal de l'histoire
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Executive Stress
21:10	The Good Guys
22:00	News in English
22:30	Soccer Match
PRAYER TIMES	
03:54	Fajr
05:27	(Sunrise) Duha
12:33	Dhuhr
15:14	'Asr
19:39	Maghrib
21:12	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	

Terrence Church Tel: 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823634, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be southeasterly light to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman 18 / 31	
Aqaba 24 / 38	
Deserts 17 / 33	
Jordan Valley 20 / 36	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Muthies Hahsa	819220
Dr. Jamil Maraga	776149
Dr. Mohammad Labada	683585
Dr. Khalid Taha	757253
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairokh pharmacy	626772
Al Salama pharmacy	636720
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
IBRD:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Zu'bi	(-)
Alquid pharmacy	985417
ZARQA:	
Dr. Yahya Al Tarifi	(-)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630521
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	771111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Company	
Electric Power	636381
Deserts	17 / 33
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussain Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann	644281/8
Aldhi Maternity, J. Ann	64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mallus, J. Ann	636140
Palestine, Shamsi	646171/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	848945
Al-Musharraf Hospital	66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Mudajra	77101/2
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	775117/6
Army, Marja	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)980732
Al-Husa Modern Hospital	(09)99090
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)274100
AQABA:	
Princess Hayat Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:15	Bangkok (RJ)
05:15	Aqaba (RJ)
05:15	Jeddah (RJ)
05:15	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
05:15	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
05:15	Beirut (RJ)
05:15	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
05:15	Vienna (RJ)
05:15	London (RJ)
05:15	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
05:15	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
05:15	Athens (RJ)
05:15	Frankfurt (RJ)
05:15	Venice (RJ)
05:15	Rome (RJ)
05:15	Paris, Brussels (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
18:35	Cairo (GF)
18:35	Bahrain (GF)
18:35	Moscow (SU)
18:35	Larnaca (CY)
18:35	Beirut (ME)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
07:15	Beirut (RJ)
07:30	Frankfurt (RJ)
07:30	Vienna (RJ)
07:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
07:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
07:30	Rome (RJ)
07:30	Athens (RJ)
07:30	Riyadh (RJ)
07:30	Jeddah (RJ)
07:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:30	Cairo (GF)
07:30	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
07:30	Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:05	Larnaca (RJ)

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	700 / 700
Banana	600 / 600
Banana (Mukammur)	600 / 600
Beans	540 / 450
Cabbage	70 / 40
Carrot	120 / 80
Cauliflower	150 / 90
Cucumbers (large)	220 / 160

Home News

King awards Jardaneh



AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday conferred the Kawkab Medal of the First Order on outgoing Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh.

The medal was awarded in recognition of the minister's unique performance and his diligent and faithful work in shouldering a serious responsibility and duty.

The presentation of the award took place at the Royal Court in the presence of the Chief of the Royal Court Khalid Al Karaki.

Tamimi is named adviser to King for Islamic affairs

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday appointed outgoing Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi as his adviser on Islamic affairs, a post created for the first time at the Royal Court.



Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi the King continued.

In a message addressed to Sheikh Tamimi, who is currently in Mecca as head of the Jordanian delegation to the official pilgrimage mission, King Hussein said Sheikh Tamimi will also continue to serve as head of a committee entrusted with the task of restoring the Dome of the Rock and the Tombs of the Companions of the Prophet Muhammad who are buried in Jordan.

"I have known you for long years as one of the most prominent Jordanian personalities who dedicated their time and effort with loyalty and diligence to serve this country and to defend Arab and Islamic rights," said King Hussein in his message to Sheikh Tamimi.

What we seek is a mission of illuminated Islamic faith in the modern age, one that can project the true characters of Islam such as tolerance, freedom, brotherhood, affection and justice, said the King.

"For this reason, I have chosen you to serve as an advisor to me on Islamic affairs and at the same time to continue to serve as head of a committee for the restoration of the Dome of the Rock and the Tombs of the Companions of the Prophet Muhammad as of today."

Conservationists to review ways of protecting Mideast environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The possibility of establishing a regional office in Amman for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is one of the main agenda topics of a four-day meeting to be organized by the IUCN here next month, according to Maher Abu Jaafar, director of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

The meetings, to open in Amman on June 6 in cooperation with the RSCN will be attended by "action groups" of the union's regional department responsible for Asia and north Africa.

Also up for discussion is the IUCN role in providing help to ensure protection for the environment in the Middle East region and an agenda for the union's 19th meeting due to be held in Argentina later this year, said Mr. Abu Jaafar.

Delegates from Jordan, Oman, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, along with 14 experts from different countries will attend the Amman meetings, he said.

He added that RSCN President Anis Muasher, along with representatives of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of

Environmental Pollution (JSPEP) will address the meetings.

The Switzerland-based union, which was founded in 1948, aims to promote the conservation of natural resources by the scientific monitoring of their conditions, determining scientific priorities for their conservation, mobilising scientific and professional resources to investigate the most serious conservation problems and recommend solutions to them.

The union also aims to develop programmes to protect and sustain the most important threatened species and ecosystems and assist governments in devising and implementing conservation projects.

According to Mr. Abu Jaafar, the delegates to the June 6 meetings will be taken on a visit to Dana Wildlife Reserve to examine the techniques used there by the RSCN and the society's endeavours to develop the region and offer assistance to the local inhabitants by helping to initiate development schemes.

Dana reserve, near Tafilah in southern Jordan, is set up on 150 square kilometres ranging from wooded mountains in the northern sector to a lesser scrub steppe in the south.

Who's who in the Majali government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following are profiles of the new members of Cabinet that were available at press time Saturday.



Abdul Salam Al Majali

PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS Abdul Salam Al Majali, aged 67, was born in Karak. He holds an M.D. from the Medical College, Syrian University, Damascus.

Dr. Majali served as president of the University of Jordan, Minister of Health, Minister of Education, and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs. He was head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks.



Ma'an Abu Nowar

MINISTER OF INFORMATION Ma'an Abu Nowar was born in Salt in 1928 and holds a Ph.D. in Middle East studies. He served in the Jordanian Armed Forces and was Director of Public Security Department (PSD) (1967), Ambassador to London, Mayor of Amman, Minister of Culture and Information (1973), Minister of Public Works (1979), Minister of Tourism (1980-1984).



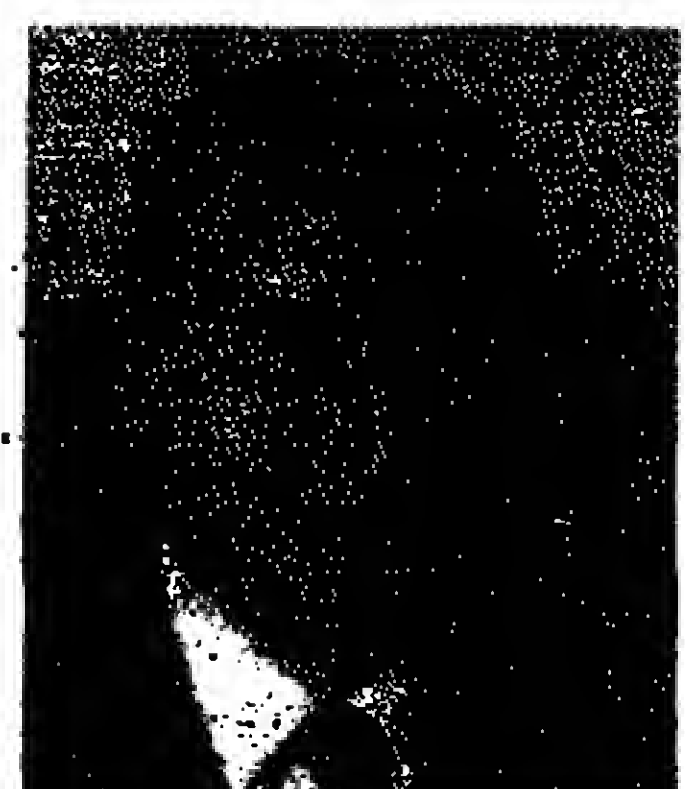
Jawad Al Anani

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRIME MINISTRY AFFAIRS Jawad Al Anani was born in Hail, near Hebron, in 1943. Dr. Anani obtained a bachelor's degree in economics from the American University of Cairo in 1967, a masters degree in economics from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee in 1970 and

his doctorate degree from the University of Georgia in 1975. He served as a researcher at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), head of the bank's Research and Studies Department, undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour, lecturer at the university of Jordan and the Banking Institute of Jordan, Minister of Supply and Minister of Labour. Dr. Anani became president of the Royal Scientific Society, before being named to the Middle East peace talks. He hosted a weekly television programme on the economy of Jordan on J.T.V.

MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES Walid Asfour was born in 1932. Mr. Asfour obtained his bachelor's degree in political science and economics from the American University of Beirut in 1956 and his master's degree from the United States in 1958. He served as president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, Amman Deputy Mayor, Chairman of the Board of the Jordan Cement Factories Company and Minister of Industry and Trade. Mr. Asfour was decorated with the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the Second Order.

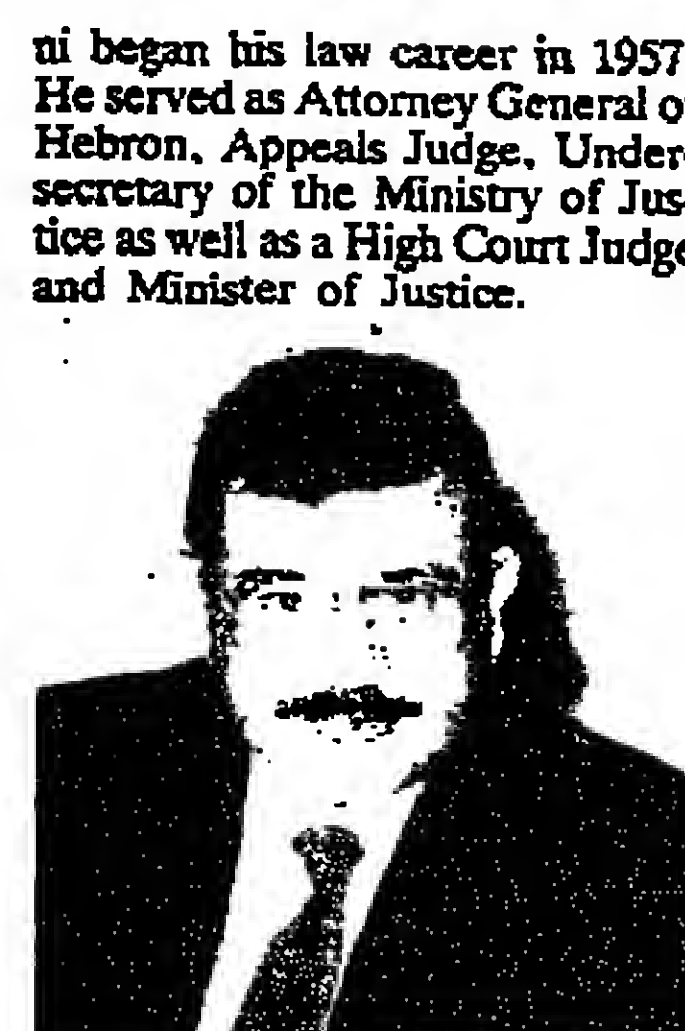
MINISTER OF YOUTH Abdullah Oweidar was born in Mafrag in 1948. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Arabic language and literature from the University of Baghdad in 1969, a diploma in education from the University of Jordan in 1972, a masters degree in education from the University of Jordan in 1977 and a masters degree in educational planning and a doctorate in social education from the University of Southern California. In 1984, Dr. Oweidar became Minister of Culture and Youth. From 1985-89 he was Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education at the University of Jordan. Currently, he is associate professor at the university.



Yanal Hikmat

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND ANTIQUITIES Yanal Hikmat was born in Amman in 1935. He studied at the Bishops School in Amman, obtained a bachelor's degree in economics from California University in 1956. Mr. Hikmat served at the Foreign Ministry, and later at the Royal Court as assistant Chief of the Protocol, until 1985 when he was appointed Minister of Tourism in the government of Prime Minister Zeid Rifai. Mr. Hikmat served as Tourism Minister with several consecutive governments.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE Ratab Al Wazani was born in Amman in 1934. He received a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Alexandria and a master's degree in law from the University of London, Mr. Wazani began his law career in 1957.



Ziad Fariz

MINISTER OF PLANNING Ziad Fariz was born in Salt in 1943. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Baghdad in 1966 and served as an economics researcher and head of the Foreign Commerce Department at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) between 1966 and 1973. After obtaining his master's degree in economics from Britain in 1978, Mr. Fariz served as advisor for studies and research at CBJ until 1982. Between 1982 and 1984, he served as head of the Foreign Relations Department at the Bank. He also served as Minister of Planning Undersecretary until his appointment in 1989 as a Planning Minister, and later as minister of Industry and Trade. Again in 1991 he was appointed Minister of Planning.

Bassam Al Saket
Minister of Industry and Trade



Mahmoud Al Samra

MINISTER OF CULTURE Mahmoud Al Samra was born in Al Tantoura, Palestine in 1924. Dr. Samra obtained his bachelor's degree in arts from Cairo University in 1950 and a doctorate from London University in 1958. He was a professor of literary criticism at the University of Jordan and became Dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1968. Later he became president of the university and then served as Minister of Culture with several governments. Dr. Samra was decorated with Al Istiklal Medal of the First Order in 1974.

MINISTER OF STATE Ahmad Al Akaleh was born in Maan in 1932. Mr. Aqaleh holds a bachelor's degree in Arabic and an education diploma. He served as an Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior. Previously he worked as a teacher in Maan, the West Bank and Saudi Arabia. Mr. Aqaleh served as Director of the Education Departments in Maan, Hebron, Balqa, Irbid and

Amman. He has also worked as an advisor at the Jordanian embassy in Kuwait. He was decorated with Al Istiklal Medal of the Second Order and the Moroccan Al Masira Al Khadra Medal.

MINISTER OF AWQAF AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS Abdul Salam Al Abbadi was born in Amman in 1943. He holds a doctorate degree in Islamic studies from Al Azhar University in Cairo. Dr. Abbadi worked previously as a teacher, a general advisor for preaching and religious counselling, a lecturer at the University of Jordan, Dean of the Students Affairs Deanship at the university, Secretary General of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and head of the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation. He is the author of numerous books on Islamic Sharia, education and economy.

Mohammad Farhan
Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment



Bassam Kakish
Minister of Water and Irrigation



Sami Qammo

MINISTER OF FINANCE Sami Qammo was born in Jordan in 1940. He obtained a bachelor's degree in commerce from the American University of Beirut in 1962 and a masters in finance and economy from Syracuse University in New York in 1967. Mr. Qammo served as an economic advisor at the Jordanian embassy in Cairo, Jordan's envoy to the Cairo-based Council of Arab Economic Unity, a member of the Board of Directors of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, a lecturer at the University of Jordan, Director of the General Budget Department, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dar Al Shaab Publishing Company, and head of the Amman-based Middle East Insurance Company.

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS Talal Sataan Al Hassan was born in Irbid in 1939. In addition to being member of the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Hassan has served as the Kingdom's ambassador to Belgium and Tunisia. He holds a Licence De Droit from Damascus University.



Salameh Hammad

Minister of Interior



Mohammad Al Scur

MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT Mohammad Al Scur was born in Tafilah in 1936. He obtained his bachelor's degree in social and philosophical studies from Damascus University in 1960, a masters in economics and social planning from Swan Sea University in the United Kingdom in 1976 and an advanced social planning diploma from the same university in 1976-77. Dr. Scur obtained his doctorate in sociology from Egypt. He worked as a teacher in Irbid and as transferred to the Ministry of Social Development, before being seconded to the Saudi Ministry of Social Development. He also worked as director of the Planning and Development Department at the Ministry of Labour and as Dean of the Social Service College in Amman. Before becoming Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development, Dr. Scur worked as an expert with the United Nations for a four-year tenure. In 1986, he established the National Aid Fund (NAF) and became its director general and in 1987 became secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development. Dr. Scur currently works as a part-time lecturer at the University of Jordan.

Khalaf Haweiri
Minister of Housing and Public Works

Salman Al Tarawneh

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT Salman Al Tarawneh was born in Husseinieh, Karak. He received his law degree from the University of Damascus and his masters in public administration from the University of Southern California. Mr. Tarawneh served as legal advisor and assistant general director at the Income Tax Department, before becoming General Director in 1984. He has also served as General Director of the Budget Department and Secretary-General of the Audit Bureau.

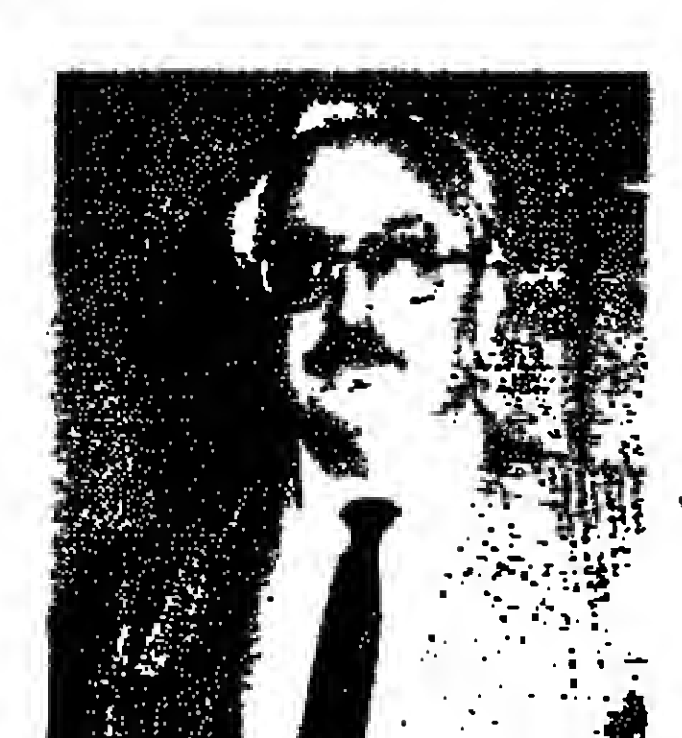
Radi Ibrahim
Minister of Supply

Khaled Al Zoubi
Minister of Legal Affairs

Khaled Al Omari
Minister of Education and Higher Education

Khaled Ghzawi

MINISTER OF LABOUR: Khaled Ghzawi was born in Maan in 1939. He obtained his bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Baghdad, a diploma in education from the University of Jordan, and a masters in educational administration and supervision from the University of Jordan. Mr. Ghzawi served as Secretary General of the Ministry of Education for Administration.



Marwan Kamal

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE Marwan Kamal was born in the West Bank town of Anabtu in 1933. He obtained his bachelor's, masters in business administration and doctorate (1961) in chemistry from the universities of Minnesota and Pittsburgh. Dr. Kamal worked for six years in chemical research with a U.S. firm, nine years at King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran as a professor and dean of the sciences and one year at Princeton University in New Jersey. He was Dean of Sciences at the University of Jordan for two years, Dean of Agriculture for four years, vice-president of the Sciences Faculty for one year, and vice-president of Yamouk University for two years. Dr. Kamal was seconded to the Bahraini government to work for four years as President of the University of Bahrain. At present he is a professor of chemistry at the University of Jordan.

Tareq Suheimat
Minister of Communications

Abdul Rahim Malhas

MINISTER OF HEALTH Abdul Rahim Malhas was born in Amman in 1937. He obtained a bachelor of science in 1958, an M.D. in 1963 in surgery from the American University of Beirut. Dr. Malhas served at the Royal Medical Services Hospital from 1966-68 and was responsible for evacuation of patients from Ramallah Hospital in 1967. He also worked as director of Aqaba General Hospital in 1970. Dr. Malhas has been a surgeon at Malhas Hospital in Amman from 1975 to date. He holds a two-dan black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Majali government is sworn in

(Continued from page 1)

Arab states), and with reorganising their relations on better and stronger bases," the King told his new prime minister who said his government will work towards creating conditions that could restore confidence among them.

King Hussein said it was unacceptable that the Arab World remains divided at a time when the world is moving towards greater cooperation, asserting that Jordan stands by any effort that would lead to "a new Arab dawn that would bring back to the Arab citizen his confidence and feelings of dignity and humanity."

Reiterating Jordan's stand in support of the Palestinians, the King said Jordan seeks a just, lasting and comprehensive peace that would be for the benefit of all in the region and would be a substitute for the continuous suffering.

"We find no alternative to seeking (peace) and no escape from facing our responsibilities towards Palestinians," the King told Dr. Majali.

"The government asserts that (the decision to participate in the peace talks) is a choice for restoring the rights through political negotiations," Dr. Majali responded.

"Peace is a battle for regaining the rights and not surrender because that entails giving

rights up," said Dr. Majali, the first Jordanian to hold face-to-face peace negotiations with Israel despite severe opposition from some political parties.

Success in reaching just Middle East peace would be a great achievement for the whole region and its stability, the King said. It would provide the best opportunity for a comprehensive Arab march towards developing the resources of the Arab Nation, he said.

The King also called for continuous support of the Armed Forces and strengthening the educational system, the industrial, agricultural, energy and tourist sectors. He said that Jordan's "free economy" has started to recover from the blow delivered by the Gulf crisis.

The King acknowledged the role of the private sector in this recovery calling for allowing it more opportunities to participate in the building of national economy, and Dr. Majali pledged to work towards the objective.

"I stress the necessity of implementing all (these policies) and translating it into an economic, cultural, social and political reality that will be tangible for citizens," King Hussein told the head of Jordan's 79th government.

Juliana's Discotheque

The most Exciting Sound & Light show

RAMADA HOTEL
Tel.: 825941/816722

HAPPY EID HAPPY EID HAPPY EID HAPPY EID HAPPY EID HAPPY EID HAPPY EID

stores Together

تستقبلكم اليوم وكل يوم

Welcome's You All Together

مبان - شارع وصفي التل (المبارزة) - بجانب مطعم السموات
Wasfi Al Tall Str. (Gardens) - Next to Sarwat Restaurant

HAPPY EID HAPPY EID HAPPY EID HAPPY EID HAPPY EID HAPPY EID HAPPY EID

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Art exhibition by Patrice Pain at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures by artist Abdul Hayy Musallam at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Rafiq Al Lahham at the Royal Cultural Centre.

ADVERTISEMENT

The Friends of Archaeology Society regrets to announce the cancellation of the lecture by Mr. William Lancaster which was scheduled for May 31, 1993.

A new date for this lecture will be announced in FOA news letter.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Unenviable but inevitable tasks

OVERSEEING Jordan's next parliamentary elections, now entrusted to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, is certainly not an easy task. The outgoing government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has paved most of the way to the first multi-party elections in the Kingdom's recent history. Sharif Zeid's government departs from office credited with abolishing martial law, enacting the Political Parties Law by licensing 17 political parties, and securing the passage of the Press and Publications Law. The one thing that the outgoing Cabinet did not wish — indeed it was not entitled to do so — was to introduce changes to the Election Law. That was because the Sharif Zeid Cabinet had in its ranks too many would-be candidates for the next parliamentary elections to maintain impartiality. It would not have been right to touch the Election Law nor would the government have been able to change the law without fierce resistance from Parliament members who had already been elected according to the old formula and other politicians.

The Election Law, as it stands now, seems to have many faulty articles and loopholes. These have been the subject of an extensive debate among Jordanians. Some politicians and writers demand that a number of articles be changed while others oppose any change. His Majesty King Hussein said recently that he thought that through debate Jordanians would at last agree on changes they find necessary and essential.

In his letter to Dr. Majali yesterday, the King told the prime minister to "take all possible and suitable measures that would ensure that the election process is conducted in accordance to the Constitution that ensures the members of this family, men and women, full equality in rights and obligations." The King stressed that he wanted elections that are "the easiest, most comprehensive and most honest." The King also said that every voter, man or woman, should be reminded of his/her responsibility towards their country and that votes should go to the most suitable candidates for public service.

Judging from the composition of his Cabinet, the creation of a new Ministry for Legal Affairs and Dr. Majali's reply to the King's letter of designation, it would appear that the prime minister has set the way for at least introducing the minimum changes to the law that would make voting a less tedious and complicated process.

Dr. Majali said in his reply to the King's letter that his government would "strive to ensure that equality among people" in the coming elections. How Dr. Majali and his colleagues would translate this into concrete action will determine the shape of the next Parliament, will have a lasting effect on the country's democratisation process and will be the ultimate test of the government's success and failure.

In the meantime, we, on our part, wish the new prime minister and Cabinet every success in their entrusted task.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday described Israel's decision to impose permanent closure on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as yet another form of aggression and a flagrant violation of human rights. The decision came a few hours after Faisal Hussein declared the Palestinian delegation's consent to go to Washington to have talks with the American and Israeli sides to reach consensus on a declaration of principles for settling the Palestine issue, recalled the paper. It said that Israel will definitely be using the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a lever to pressure the Palestinians in order to get further concessions and guarantee Israel's plans on the future of the occupied territories. Such a practice poses a grave danger to the future peace talks and can only impede any comprehensive settlement, added the paper. It said that the time has come for Washington to play the real role of full partner and ensure the safety and protection and human rights of the Palestinian people. The paper said the imposition of siege on the occupied Arab lands is an open aggressive act which calls for speedy international action to ensure the rights of the Palestinians. Furthermore, the paper demanded an escalation of the intifada on all fronts and by all means to force Israel to lift the siege and start meaningful talks with the Palestinian delegation to attain genuine peace.

THE TIME between the ninth and the 10th sessions of the peace talks is sufficient for the Arab parties to the peace negotiations to take stock of the past deliberations and their outcome, said Sawt Al Shaab daily Saturday. What is required is an adamant stand on the part of the Arab parties vis-a-vis a similar stand on the part of the Israeli government, demanded the paper. It said that this adamant stand is also required in case the American administration persists in its biased attitude towards Israel and its retreat from a commitment to play an active role to force the Israelis accept the U.N. resolutions and comply with the requirements of the international legitimacy, added the paper. At a time when Israel announces a permanent closure of the occupied lands, the Israeli government declares plans for offering the Palestinian delegation a new plan imposing autonomy rule on Gaza as a first step, noted the daily. Such a proposal is sinister because it is an attempt to deal with the Palestine question piecemeal and circumvent the Arab-Israeli peace process which was based on resolutions 242 and 338, the paper continued. With the new plan, the Rabin government, which has failed to date to stifle the spirit of Palestinian resistance, is trying to force the Palestinian delegation to accept the Israeli dictates.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Sales tax, far from inflationary, favours low-income groups

Short-sighted businessmen, politicians and columnists rejoiced upon the abolition of the general sales tax law. They deserve to be congratulated for this "achievement", for their success in mobilising the public opinion against the law and for pressuring the government which, unable to take the heat, finally decided to call off the law for the time being and leave it to the next government.

The credit for this turn of events does not go to the convincing points of view argued by the law's opponents; it goes to the sheer inaction of the government which kept silent and left public opinion to be misled by outspoken opponents with false information. The minister of finance did not address the people via the T.V. and tell the truth, the whole truth, until it was too late and the law was put on hold.

Deferring the application of the sales tax for several months may be looked upon as a success story by demagogic forces, but it was a blow to the best interests of the country and the people. The law was killed not because of rational reasoning, and dollars and cents calculation, it was killed by loud voices, wrong assumptions and vested interests.

Jordanian public opinion was given the impression that the sales tax was a new tax which would increase the overall tax burden. This is absolutely wrong, because the tax will only replace the consumption tax. The proceeds of the sales tax will not exceed the proceeds of the current consumption tax. The replacement of the consumption tax by a sales tax will, if anything, ease the tax burden. So far, no opponent of the sales tax came up with a calculation to prove that it will bring one penny to the treasury more than what the current consumption tax does, despite the fact that the Amman Chamber of Industry stands ready to finance such a study.

Jordanian public opinion was also misled into believing that the implementation of the sales tax will cause the prices and the cost of living to rise. This is grossly wrong; the reductions and exemptions granted by the tax exceed the additions. If anything, the shift from the consumption tax to a sales tax should cause a net decrease in prices and cost of living.

Moreover, the sales tax was socially-oriented. It favoured low-income groups through the exempted food, medicine, baby supplies and other goods.

Admittedly the sales tax became a controversial question. Therefore, we should have determined the right path through calculations rather than impressions and slogans. The question should have been

resolved economically, politically and socially, based on answers to the following questions:

— Will the prices and the cost of living rise if we remove the consumption tax and implement the sales tax instead?

— Will the overall tax burden increase or decrease after shifting from the consumption tax to the sales tax?

— Is the sales tax harmful or helpful to the poor and limited-income groups?

— Does the sales tax weaken or strengthen the protection of the domestic industry?

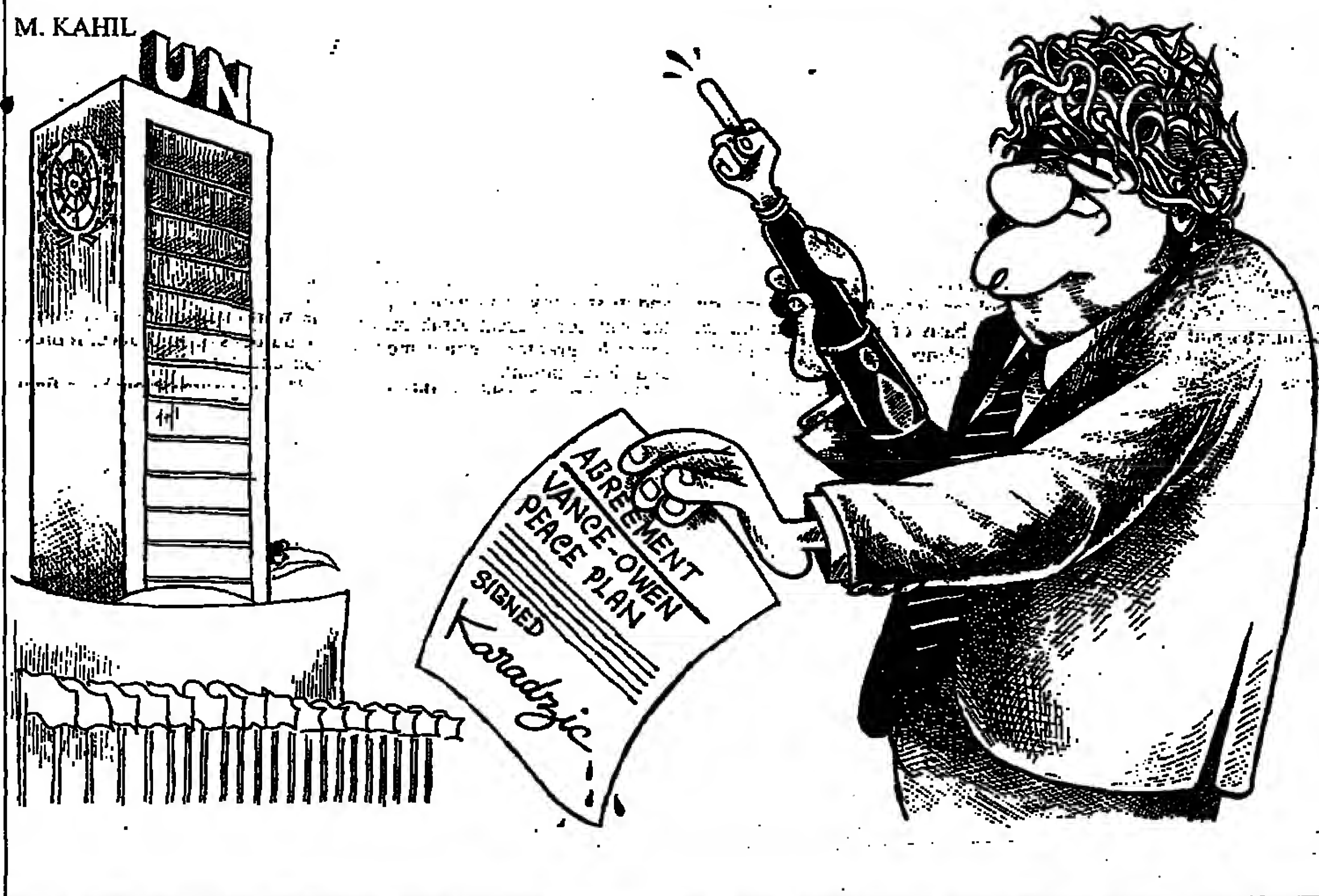
In a nutshell, and at the expense of repetition, we claim that replacing the consumption tax by the sales tax is not inflationary. Its effect on the price, cost of living, tax burden and the poor will be favourable. It will also guarantee, for the first time, a minimum protection of 30 per cent and a maximum one of 50 per cent in favour of domestic industry which should reassure present and potential investors.

Following are the facts and figures as presented by Mr. Basel Jaradneh, minister of finance, whose credibility was never in doubt: Ninety-nine commodities currently pay consumption tax. If the sales tax law is issued, then 35 marginal commodities will be added, of which 28 are fully imported, and only seven are produced locally. All seven are marginal and hardly used by the people. Among them are: beach umbrellas, decoration statues, tape holders, dried flowers and artificial flowers.

Against the rise in the prices of these luxurious commodities, which are almost unknown to ordinary families, some basic commodities, which are essential to the people, will be exempted from the tax they now pay. Examples are: vegetable oil, sweets, tires of small and big cars and medical equipment.

As far as the 99 commodities which currently pay consumption tax are concerned, the rate will rise as far as nine luxurious goods are concerned and will decrease on 20 essential goods. The remaining 70 goods will pay the same rate and will thus maintain their present prices.

It is obviously clear that the application of the sales tax — stage one — serves the national economy, the producer, and the low-income consumer. It represents a tax reform and paves the way for more advanced and modern stages in the future. Those who can challenge the above facts should stand up and speak out now; otherwise they should let things follow their normal course.



Oman and Yemen — good news from the Arabian Peninsula

By Philip Bowring

MUSCAT, Oman — Good news is a rare enough commodity in the geopolitics of the Middle East. So some positive developments around the southern shores of the Arabian Peninsula merit attention and support — both for their own sake and for their impact on a region obsessed with old rivalries and neighbourhood grievances.

April 27 saw that rarity in the Arab World — elections. They were the first ever in a united Yemen. Such experiments with democracy are certainly welcome. But more important is the success Yemen has made of reunification in 1990 (when formerly Marxist South Yemen joined the more populous North) and the rapprochement between united Yemen and neighbouring Oman, where once it fomented revolution and secession.

Despite its poverty, Yemen, now with its own oil income, however modest, may be set to play a larger role in regional affairs. Saudi Arabia may be nervous about democratic experiments, not to mention unveiled women and a brewery, but Oman is happy enough.

Oman and Yemen now have an agreed border, and they plan a road link and a free trade zone to encourage commerce. Vice President Ali Salim Baid of Yemen has been a welcome visitor to Muscat, and Oman hopes to take part in Yemen's oil development.

There has even been a slight thaw in Yemen's relations with Saudi Arabia, although King Fahd's expulsion of nearly a million Yemenis in retaliation for their government's verbal support for Iraq, will not soon be forgotten.

Yemen and Oman matter. Yemen, with 14 million people, is almost as populous as Saudi Arabia. It lacks oil but has a strong sense of historical continuity. Oman, too, has a sense of identity; it has a large land area and commands one side of the Hormuz Strait, as Yemen commands one side of the gate to the Red Sea. Both are marginal but growing oil exporters. Oman now pumps 750,000 barrels a day, enough to make it comfortable but not arrogant. Yemen is set to double output to 400,000 barrels, enough to rescue it from penury.

For Oman, the rapprochement with Yemen is another link in its chain of commonsensical relations. Oman is a player in oil policy, but has not joined OPEC. Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said has gone out of his way to avoid offending Iran, which must still think occasionally of again controlling both sides of the Hormuz Strait. With its own brand of conservative but unfanatical Islam, Ibadism, Oman has felt less threatened than others by Iran's militant Islam.

Sultan Qaboos helped mediate between Iran and Iraq. His forces participated in the Gulf war, and allied planes used his airfields to attack Iraq. Yet he has worried that allied overkill might permanently alienate Iraq from its Gulf neighbours.

He has maintained military ties with Oman's old protector, Britain, and since 1980 has given the United States access to military facilities. The West remains the ultimate protector of the established interest of small states in the region, and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. Yet there is evidence that Sultan Qaboos is looking to further di-

versify Oman's relations in order to safeguard it and its access to the Gulf.

After all, the U.S. willingness to launch Operation Desert Shield was a result of a combination of circumstances, including the redundancy of U.S. forces in Germany, which are unlikely to be repeated.

Efforts to build a regional self-defence mechanism through the Gulf Cooperation Council — comprising Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman — have made little progress. The Saudis see Sultan Qaboos's proposal for a 100,000-strong force as a way of Oman expanding its forces — already 35,000 strong in a population of under 2 million — at Saudi expense. "I'm not paying to keep young Omanis off the streets," King Fahd has reportedly said. The other GCC members are militarily insignificant and prone to petty rivalries.

The new relationships that Sultan Qaboos is trying to build are primarily commercial but have strategic implications. One is with Yemen. Another is with India, which has long had trading links with Oman and provides the bulk of its foreign labour force of 350,000. Planning has begun for a gas pipeline to Bombay. This would not only enable Oman to export gas but could give India a direct interest in Oman's security. With its coastline almost entirely on the Arabian Sea — and not the Gulf — Oman's security is less problematic than that of other Gulf countries.

But there is a wide perception that energy markets for Gulf countries will increasingly be more in the east than in the west. This, together with the collapse

of the Soviet Union, implies new security interests in the region.

For Oman this also means enhancing economic security — for instance, by participating in refinery projects in countries such as Thailand and India and, through the government-owned Oman Oil Corporation, in energy exploration projects in ex-Soviet republics (notably Kazakhstan) with hopes of getting into China.

Oman is trying to revive its links with East Africa at a time when other countries are tending to downgrade links with the continent. Until the mid-19th century, Zanzibar and Mombasa were ruled by Omanis. And at home, Oman is gradually opening up to outsiders, whether tourists or investors.

Together, these moves tell something of changing relationships in this strategically important area where Arab, Iranian, Indian and African meet. They will have a bearing on how Oman, which has gone through an amazing transformation since Sheikh Qaboos came to power in 1970, copes with the next quarter century.

The challenges are formidable: Diversifying away from oil, absorbing a growing and now educated population, managing water and transforming an ancient sultanate into a constitutional monarchy. But the view, from the old trading forts that dot Oman's long coastline and guard the date gardens of the interior, or from modern Muscat with its university, its stock exchange and its industrial estate, is guardedly optimistic.

With foresight and moderation, drastic change can be managed, even by very small nations — International Herald Tribune.

President attaches strings to continuation of trade benefits

By Ruth Sinai
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton on Friday extended for another year China's trade privileges with the United States, but attached provisions requiring China to meet new terms, including improvement of human rights standards.

Mr. Clinton called the terms "a new chapter in United States policy to China."

Mr. Clinton announced a one-year extension of China's most favoured nation — or MFN — trade status. The treatment allows countries to sell to the United States at reduced tariffs.

Although there are no strings attached to the current extension, in order to continue its MFN status next year, China would have to make progress on human rights, fair trade and nuclear non-proliferation issues.

Mr. Clinton signed the executive order after meeting with congressional leaders.

Majority leader George Mitchell asserted that it was the first time a president had sought to put human-rights conditions on an MFN renewal.

"I commend President Clinton for his leadership on this issue. For the first time since the events of Tiananmen Square, nearly four years ago, we have a president who is willing to act in order to bring about positive change."

However, the language containing the conditions is not binding on either the president or Congress, only asserting that the secretary of state not recommend another MFN extension unless progress has been demonstrated by China on the human rights and other fronts.

During last year's campaign, Mr. Clinton vowed to reverse the previous policy followed by President Bush of granting annual extensions of MFN to Peking.

However, Friday's order was a middle ground.

Mr. Clinton, in a statement, declared: "Starting today, the United States will speak with one voice on China policy. We no longer have an executive branch policy and a congressional policy. We have an American policy."

The order calls on China to free political prisoners — but does not insist it release them all. It also calls for China to recognise "Tibet's distinctive religious and cultural heritage," to permit international radio and television broadcasts into China and to follow humane practices in the use of prison labour.

Still, Mr. Clinton asserted that, despite all his concerns, "the public interest would be served" with not attaching conditions to the current year's extension.

The order extends the preferential trade treatment until July 3, 1994.

"I don't want to isolate China. I want to do what's good for the Chinese people. But I think standing up for American values, and values in China, is the way to go," Mr. Clinton told reporters.

The president in his statement voiced concern about China's trade policy, saying it blocks American goods.

The United States ran a trade deficit of \$18.26 billion with China last year, second only to the shortfall with Japan. Americans sold \$7.48 billion in exports to China last year, while the Chinese sold \$25.74 billion in the

United States. Mr. Clinton chose a compromise between American businesses that did not want any conditions attached to the one-year extension and members of Congress who wanted China's trade privileges suspended or made conditional on strict compliance with human rights standards and arms transfer agreements.

On Thursday, the State Department announced that if China is found in violation of arms transfer agreements, the United States would not hesitate to enact the sanctions required by U.S. law.

Questions about Peking's weapons imports and exports arose anew with word that China had taken delivery of dozens of surface-to-air missiles from Russia.

Classified reports indicate that the SA-10 anti-aircraft and anti-missile weapons were delivered in recent weeks despite U.S. concerns expressed to Moscow over the sale, said an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The deal does not violate an agreement among the world's major missile producers to limit the spread of missiles that can carry nuclear or chemical warheads, U.S. officials and outside experts said.

"The language containing the conditions is not binding on either the president or Congress, only asserting that the secretary of state not recommend another MFN extension unless progress has been demonstrated by China on the human rights and other fronts."

But American concerns stem from China's known expertise in so-called reverse engineering. China's weapons labs are adept at dismantling foreign-bought weapons, cannibalising some of their more sophisticated technology and incorporating it into home-grown weapons systems. China thus can sell these weapons at a far cheaper cost to other countries, which cannot afford Soviet, European or American weapons.

The fast-flying SA-10, nicknamed Grumble by the NATO alliance, is billed by the Russians as similar to the U.S. patriot missile, although American analysts believe it is less sophisticated. The Soviets originally developed it to shoot down bombers at altitudes of up to 88,000 feet, then adapted it for use in intercepting incoming tactical missiles.

Defence officials are concerned that the Chinese could use the SA-10 technology to develop countermeasures to help their surface-to-surface missiles, such as M-9s and M-11s, evade anti-missile missiles. The United States says it has information that China has sold M-9s and M-11s to Pakistan, Syria and Iran.

LETTERS

Dangerous pleasures

To the Editor:

Horns hooting, lights glaring, hands clapping, and shrill voices penetrating the balmy evening air... It must be a wedding! Rushing to the balcony I see no bridal car, no flower-bedecked bonnets, just billowing black gowns encasing figures perched precariously on the open car windows, like witches on broomsticks! Students are sitting on the roofs of the cars drumming dementedly; never mind the crossroads, carry on speeding, regardless of the danger and certain death to themselves or any poor pedestrian who should dare cross their path!

No one would want to deny the youth the right to celebrate their well-deserved degrees, but this practice is suicidal and in my opinion should be stopped. Perhaps a hefty fine would help to discourage this mad and irresponsible habit; after all, it is JD 50 for going through an amber red light as I know to my cost! Surely something equally exciting, but less dangerous can be found to fulfil their need to celebrate. I hope so, or I fear many will have their degrees buried with them.

Sue Abu Nowar,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

King mandates Majali with overseeing 'fair, free' elections

Following is a translation of the full text of His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Saturday, May 29, 1993:

I SEND you an Arab and Hashemite greeting and express my absolute confidence in you as you enjoy my greatest appreciation and trust.

I have known you my entire life, as I struggled along with my responsibility to serve this nation and this country, to be a man of thought, activity and sacrifice, and a true and honest man.

I have also known you as a member of the Jordanian Armed Forces, when our ideas were fused to offer service and care to our countrymen. Our good work was founded on strong principles and our steps were those of people with self-confidence when in the Royal Medical Services which has fostered an elite of young people in the service of the nation and has opened before them new scopes for knowledge in various fields of specialisation.

You have helped in laying the foundation for the creation of Al Hussein Medical Centre and other medical institutions, and we now see the fruit of such endeavours, benefitting the country and its people. We also see that the elite group that we supported since the beginning, and those who left the Royal Medical Services are now leaders in the medical field and at the regional and international levels.

Your appreciated efforts at the University of Jordan served as a continuation of your earlier endeavours and contributed to a great extent to the care for the youth of this country.

In light of the world developments and the continued suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation, the question of peace was put forward at a time considered as one of the most difficult we have ever lived — as Palestinians, Jordanians and Arabs — and we called for a national conference where all alternatives were put forward. This conference resulted in our choice to go along the path of a just and comprehensive peace that can be acceptable to the coming generations, a peace that can ensure the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights in their homeland and restore the places holy for Muslims and Christians and the burial place of Al Hussein Ben Ali, father of the modern Arab revolution and father of the late King Abdullah, the founder of the Kingdom, who fell as martyr on its soil.

We had to choose a man who enjoys our absolute trust to head our national team at the start of the peace process and we chose you without hesitation to carry out this difficult task. You have risen to the occasion and proved

capable of shouldering this important mission. You will continue to enjoy our deepest appreciation and trust.

We now pass through a very critical situation in which the process of democracy is taking root in our Jordanian community. We have chosen shura (consultation) as our path and course in life and we have presented it as a gift to the Jordanian people regardless of their origin. This democracy was not imposed on us by anyone, rather it came in harmony with our aspirations. We have put forth our plans for democracy at the right moment and we followed its path under difficult circumstances. But we have put our trust in God and pledged to respect each person's rights and pledged to involve all people in shouldering various responsibilities to shape up a model nation.

"Our information and media should be developed. To do this, a new generation of experienced and skilled people should be involved in this field. We need to see a press that can defend the nation and side by right, justice and freedom."

A Royal commission was set up to work out the National Charter. It represented all schools of thought in Jordan and all the political affiliations. It succeeded in drawing up a formula for responsible dialogue which was accepted by all people since it fell within the framework of the Constitution. The National Charter has set the guidelines for the democratic march, including political pluralism which calls for equal rights and duties and keeps the members of the Jordanian armed and security forces away from political activities so that they can remain a shield for the nation, helping to attain its aspirations.

The National Charter provided for respect for human rights, for giving the Arab individual his full rights and respect for his human dignity and his value. We have relied in all this on the principles and teachings of the Holy Koran and the sayings of Prophet Mohammad.

We have built and continue to build for the coming generations, seeking to satisfy God and a free conscience. We seek the satisfac-

tion and not the bad judgement of the future generations. In this, we do not try to outbid anyone, but we act in light of the world developments.

Our actions are based on our convictions and leave others to choose their path in life. But it has to be said that the course we have taken resulted from our sufferings in confronting challenges and dangers and the great burden our country had to bear towards our nation. We will remain the closest Arabs to Palestine, the land, its people and their right depending on our determination, awareness and seasoned people who have faced numerous plights and experiments in life. But we will not bow except to God.

We have lived four years of our new life under the umbrella of democracy, which we still build for the future. Now that the Parliament's ordinary session has ended and preparations are going on for the parliamentary elections, and since the government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has resigned after carrying out its mandate, in my capacity as responsible for the three authorities (executive, legislative, judicial) and with support from the Jordanian society, I hereby entrust to you the formation of a new government to prepare for the elections.

As I entrust you with this new mission and national responsibility, I am certain that you will be keen, like myself, to ensure that the deputies in the coming Parliament will represent all Jordanian people without any discrimination. I trust that you will take all the appropriate measures to ensure a smooth election process based on the provisions of the Constitution. I am sure that you will guarantee for all men and women full equality in rights and duties and facilitate for all people the right to vote for the coming Parliament in a fair and free manner.

You should remind voters of their responsibility towards their nation and their country. I trust that you will make each voter understand that his voice should go to the best who aims to serve the nation.

The past four years were rich in experiments and we thank God for this, especially as the positive aspects exceeded the negative ones. We also thank the deputies and the government for their efforts and their sacrifices. But we seek more positive aspects and less negative ones. We seek the rule of the law applied to all and a balance between the executive, legislative and judicial authorities so that one cannot infringe on the other. We need to see a dynamic executive authority, an honest and competent one that can deal with all matters of concern to the nation and its needs. We need to see a public

administration where all those with qualifications can excel, not one that is paralysed by acts of favouritism and impeded by bureaucracy and fear of shouldering responsibility.

Therefore, I hope to make it clear to everyone that we expect from the new government to launch a campaign of work and genuine construction in all fields. This stage is not one of idleness, circumstances do not allow room for it as we face numerous challenges. We should not suffice ourselves with what we have achieved as our aims and ambitions should reach far.

I fear for our democracy and our path that we have chosen. I warn against those who infiltrate our ranks under the pretext that they believe in this democracy but in reality they harbour evil and harm and work towards its destruction from within.

I fear for this democracy from the acts of those who are apprehensive about it as they do not understand it. Our success in democracy will mean a great deal for our hopes in the future of this united family which groups free men and women. But if we fail,

"As I entrust you with this new mission (elections) and national responsibility, I am certain that you will be keen, like myself, to ensure that the deputies in the coming Parliament will represent all Jordanian people without any discrimination. I trust that you will take all the appropriate measures to ensure a smooth election process based on the provisions of the Constitution. I am sure that you will guarantee for all men and women full equality in rights and duties and facilitate for all people the right to vote for the coming Parliament in a fair and free manner."

God forbid, the repercussions would not only break the back of our steadiness, they would also deal a heavy blow and be a setback to all the aspirations for which we have struggled in the past.

On the pan-Arab front, we emphasise here that we have always been for one united nation and we support all those who help enhance the national fabric and foster inter-Arab relations on the basis of respect and mutual confidence, integration and the settlement of internal Arab problems within the framework of pan-Arab organisations. We support those who remove the causes of divisions and loss which the Arab World is now facing and we back those who try to remove the sufferings of the Arab people.

We support the revival of a brotherly dialogue with others, aimed at normalising our relations with them on sound basis. It is unreasonable to see that the world is moving in this direction of cooperation and understanding while our nation remains a pris-

oner of its own sufferings, with its states separated by fear and suspicion.

We support all true efforts that can help us see a new Arab dawn in which the Arabs can regain self-confidence and the sense of dignity and help the Arab Nation assume its proper status among the nations of the earth. Only then can we live with self-confidence when confronting dangers and challenges. I am confident that the Arab people are those who live, survive and implore God to guide us wisely along the path of good and in a way that we can dress our wounds and put an end to our bleeding and sufferings.

As to the Palestinian people and their rights in their homeland and the Arab-Israeli peace, we stress here that we are for just, comprehensive peace, acceptable to the coming generations who can protect it and live with it. We need to see peace amongst the descendants of our father Abraham since this is in the best interest of all and can put an end to the sufferings of all brothers in the occupied Arab lands.

We have no alternative to seeking this just peace and can by no means escape from it and from our responsibilities towards the people of Palestine. Our cause is just and deserves effort and defence so that we can explain its dimensions. Should these efforts bear fruit and peace be achieved, we would have accomplished a major achievement for the future of this region and its stability. This would open the way for a great Arab move towards greater achievements and developments.

We hope to achieve this and also hope that the attempts of our enemies — wherever they could be — would not succeed in undermining our chance to achieve this goal. As to the domestic policy, the government should draw up plans, conforming to the implementation of national strategies like those provided for in the National Charter, the legislations and programmes in various fields. We should not start from scratch and should not overlook the

achievements of our colleagues who assumed responsibility before us, and did well.

The question of human rights and respect for human dignity and care for individuals should assume priority in the fields of education, culture, health, environment and others. This has always been the case for Jordan and the Jordanian forefathers who started off as fathers, teachers, soldiers and farmers working diligently for their nation.

Those forefathers attained achievements of which we will feel proud and which we now teach to our children, imparting the past 70 years of our experiments with a sense of freedom, democracy and pluralism. I urge the government to help maintain a pure and bright image of Jordan before the Arab and Islamic World and before the enemies of this nation. Everyone should realise that we do not allow anyone to harm our pride and that our soil is sacred.

In order to reflect a good image, our information and media should be developed. To do this, a new generation of experience, and skilled people should be involved in this field. We need to see a press that can defend the nation and side by right, justice and freedom. We all need to shoulder our responsibilities with reason and objectivity, away from any outbidding or dealing with half truths.

Your government ought also to give attention to the Jordanian diplomacy, which represents Jordan's image abroad. The financial and administrative systems of the diplomatic service require support so as to carry out their role. The same goes for the education and higher education, culture, Awqaf and Islamic affairs, and the youth sectors. These are all organisations dealing with all the requirements of logic and science rather than ignorance and superstition. These institutions ought to direct their attention away from bigotry, sectarianism and regionalism. These organisations should be promoters of tolerance. Should we succeed in this endeavour, we would be contributing towards ending the problems that one plaguing other parts of the world which still rear under the burdens of ignorance, repression and tyranny.

The government ought to fight off routine and bureaucracy by formulating work ethics, distribution of responsibilities and continuing training. This should follow the line of the good traditions in the system. The soldier, the worker, the teacher, the employee and the farmer are all good tributaries flowing into and augmenting the great river of the nation.

As we stress the need for the coming stage to enhance the age of renaissance that we are

passing through, we emphasise the role of the Armed Forces in defending the nation and keeping peace in troubled spots around the world. We are keen on providing continued support for the Armed Forces, providing them with up-to-date equipment and the best training so that the army can continue to bear the standards of the Great Arab Revolt on which we pin our hopes. We should see the Armed Forces backed by a united and consolidated domestic front that can be protected by capable security forces which we should back in a similar manner.

Since agriculture, industry, commerce, energy, mineral resources and tourism constitute an integral part of this renaissance, we must find solutions to problems impeding their development. We must find new principles to help these sectors bolster our national economy and we must all work towards allowing, comprehensive development

which was the Al al Bait University. The government ought to provide assistance to this university, as it did to the other staff universities before, so that it can deal with the questions related to faith in the contemporary age. We also expect the government to extend support to the Centre for the study of Democracy, Freedom and Human Rights, which we have created to serve as a nucleus for Arab political thinking.

In this respect, we stress the necessity of reexamining the march of Mutah University in a manner that would ensure success for its military and civilian sections at the highest level of efficiency. We have already given directives to military educational schools to supply this university with the elite of their students so that they can assume the leadership in the Armed Forces.

A number of projects require continued follow-up on performance and achievements. I particularly refer to questions related to the protection of the environment and the greening of Jordan, the new hospitals, the national library, the reconstruction of the Royal Jordanian and the exploration for oil.

We are now entering a new democratic stage in Jordan in which all share its establishment on the basis of rights, freedom and human dignity.

We should build the country's institutions on the principle of law, leaving no room for any corner where corruption can flourish. We support right, tolerance and firmness and we adopt a foreign policy based on mutual respect, cooperation and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. We fight any attempt on the part of others to interfere in our affairs and we are committed to respecting human rights and international conventions.

We hope that the United Nations would use these conventions to transform itself into a humanitarian organisation reflecting the true status in the modern world and the need of nations for security, justice and peace. We hope to see this transformation and an end to its present form which represents an old system whose principles have long collapsed.

I stress to the government here that it should build new relations with new nations, like the newly independent Islamic states of the former Soviet Union. I emphasise the need for the government to remain committed to these directives and to translating them into political, economic, social and cultural realities in a tangible way.

I wish you and your colleagues, success in your endeavours, in enhancing democracy and in helping Jordanians obtain education, food, medical treatment and security.

reach all parts of Jordan. This is sought in order to stem the problem of unemployment and eliminate the pockets of poverty. We must remember that our free economy has now risen and started to regain a healthy status, following the numerous crises that resulted from the Gulf war and its devastating consequences. The private sector has had its own role in ending the crises and this should give us incentives towards creating the opportunity for this sector to develop and grow in the march towards the economic construction and comprehensive development in all parts of the country.

Jordan has witnessed the mushrooming of various educational institutions, the last of

which was the Al al Bait University. The government ought to provide assistance to this university, as it did to the other staff universities before, so that it can deal with the questions related to faith in the contemporary age. We also expect the government to extend support to the Centre for the study of Democracy, Freedom and Human Rights, which we have created to serve as a nucleus for Arab political thinking.

In this respect, we stress the necessity of reexamining the march of Mutah University in a manner that would ensure success for its military and civilian sections at the highest level of efficiency. We have already given directives to military educational schools to supply this university with the elite of their students so that they can assume the leadership in the Armed Forces.

A number of projects require continued follow-up on performance and achievements. I particularly refer to questions related to the protection of the environment and the greening of Jordan, the new hospitals, the national library, the reconstruction of the Royal Jordanian and the exploration for oil.

We are now entering a new democratic stage in Jordan in which all share its establishment on the basis of rights, freedom and human dignity.

We should build the country's institutions on the principle of law, leaving no room for any corner where corruption can flourish. We support right, tolerance and firmness and we adopt a foreign policy based on mutual respect, cooperation and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. We fight any attempt on the part of others to interfere in our affairs and we are committed to respecting human rights and international conventions.

We hope that the United Nations would use these conventions to transform itself into a humanitarian organisation reflecting the true status in the modern world and the need of nations for security, justice and peace. We hope to see this transformation and an end to its present form which represents an old system whose principles have long collapsed.

I stress to the government here that it should build new relations with new nations, like the newly independent Islamic states of the former Soviet Union. I emphasise the need for the government to remain committed to these directives and to translating them into political, economic, social and cultural realities in a tangible way.

I wish you and your colleagues, success in your endeavours, in enhancing democracy and in helping Jordanians obtain education, food, medical treatment and security.

reach all parts of Jordan. This is sought in order to stem the problem of unemployment and eliminate the pockets of poverty. We must remember that our free economy has now risen and started to regain a healthy status, following the numerous crises that resulted from the Gulf war and its devastating consequences. The private sector has had its own role in ending the crises and this should give us incentives towards creating the opportunity for this sector to develop and grow in the march towards the economic construction and comprehensive development in all parts of the country.

Jordan has witnessed the mushrooming of various educational institutions, the last of

which was the Al al Bait University. The government ought to provide assistance to this university, as it did to the other staff universities before, so that it can deal with the questions related to faith in the contemporary age. We also expect the government to extend support to the Centre for the study of Democracy, Freedom and Human Rights, which we have created to serve as a nucleus for Arab political thinking.

In this respect, we stress the necessity of reexamining the march of Mutah University in a manner that would ensure success for its military and civilian sections at the highest level of efficiency. We have already given directives to military educational schools to supply this university with the elite of their students so that they can assume the leadership in the Armed Forces.

A number of projects require continued follow-up on performance and achievements. I particularly refer to questions related to the protection of the environment and the greening of Jordan, the new hospitals, the national library, the reconstruction of the Royal Jordanian and the exploration for oil.

We are now entering a new democratic stage in Jordan in which all share its establishment on the basis of rights, freedom and human dignity.

We should build the country's institutions on the principle of law, leaving no room for any corner where corruption can flourish. We support right, tolerance and firmness and we adopt a foreign policy based on mutual respect, cooperation and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. We fight any attempt on the part of others to interfere in our affairs and we are committed to respecting human rights and international conventions.

We hope that the United Nations would use these conventions to transform itself into a humanitarian organisation reflecting the true status in the modern world and the need of nations for security, justice and peace. We hope to see this transformation and an end to its present form which represents an old system whose principles have long collapsed.

I stress to the government here that it should build new relations with new nations, like the newly independent Islamic states of the former Soviet Union. I emphasise the need for the government to remain committed to these directives and to translating them into political, economic, social and cultural realities in a tangible way.

Croatia distances itself from Bosnia brethren

By Mark Heinrich

ZAGREB — Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, looking over his shoulder at the threat of international sanctions, is scaling back his sponsorship of ethnic Croats fighting Muslims in western Bosnia.

But Mr. Tudjman is wary of offending the Bosnian Croats, who provided vital support during Croatia's 1991 battle for independence from the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav federation.

Treading a thin line between these conflicting aims, the Croat leader is following up on a pledge to use his influence to restrain the Herzegovina Croats, but in terms carefully measured to avoid laying the blame squarely on Croat shoulders.

EC foreign ministers this

month branded Zagreb accountable for attacks on Muslims by Bosnian Croats busy carving out a mini-state replica of Croatia with weapons and money flowing in from the contiguous "motherland."

EC ministers warned Mr. Tudjman Croatia would burn its bridges with possible western benefactors for its war-shattered economy if Bosnian Croat attacks persisted.

Washington and its top allies have warned Zagreb further "assistance to Bosnian Croat forces... could result in international sanctions against Croatia."

Ms. Tudjman could not afford to disregard the warnings. He is anxious not to fritter away western sympathy won during Croatia's bloody drive for independence two years ago.

Such goodwill is indispensable to his quest for a vibrant market economy buoyed by western investment, for eventual EC membership and for full acceptance by democratic nations.

The nationalist president denied the Croats of Bosnia's Herzegovina province flanking Croatia were his puppets, calling them independent nationals of a foreign country.

He promised to try to restrain the Herzegovina Croats, who are steeped in a warrior tradition and known as the most stridently nationalist of Croat people in the former Yugoslavia.

Within days, Mr. Tudjman was admonishing them — but without acknowledging their excesses by name or renouncing Zagreb's approach to Herzegovina as traditionally Croat land.

The president cannot afford totally to abandon west Bosnian Croats because their community, especially expatriates in the west, chipped in considerable money, personnel and professional expertise for Croatia's fledgling statehood.

Zagreb's defence minister is a Herzegovina Croat who returned after decades as a businessman in Canada.

Despite the presence of Herzegovina hardliners high in Mr. Tudjman's government pressing for integration with Croat-populated west Bosnia, diplomats said Tudjman did not appear bent on formally absorbing it.

"Tudjman has a strategic interest to nurture ties with a Croat buffer state next door which keeps the Serbs away from Croatia's Adriatic coast," one

said. So, when Denmark's foreign minister and Bosnia peace mediators visited recently, Mr. Tudjman pointedly received them in a Herzegovina Roman Catholic shrine town plastered with posters bearing his picture.

The next day, he started taking Bosnian Croats to task — not from Zagreb, but at a rally of his conservative party in the Herzegovina town of Siroki Brijeg.

"We must rein in the extremists and provocateurs among us. It is up to us now to prove we want

open cooperation with the Muslims," Mr. Tudjman, standing on a balcony, told an adulatory throng below waving Croatian flags like his own constituents.

He cushioned his criticism by praising Bosnian Croats for contributing to Croatia's fight for independence. He also blamed Muslim attacks for recent fighting in western Bosnia.

But then he cautioned that the behaviour of the Bosnian Croats would make or break Croatia's future place in Europe.

"Don't do anything reckless now that could endanger us, do not let yourself be provoked. Do your part for the development of our democracy, because we want to be an integral part of the democratic world, of democratic Europe," he added.

With that phrase, Mr. Tudjman betrayed Croatia's desperate yearning to emerge from the murky, turbulent Balkan mess and take its place among the western democracies it admires.

"Tudjman has made some progress in creating the image

abroad of a responsible Croatia (since independence). He does not want now to jeopardise Croatia's future for the rednecks of Herzegovina," a diplomatic observer said.

"He has definitely moderated his tendency to be the paymaster of the Bosnian Croats to remove impressions that he's after a greater Croatia," she said, drawing a parallel with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and his pursuit of a "greater Serbia" enveloping much of Bosnia.

Southeast Asia seeks regional security network

By Peter Bohan

REUTERS

SINGAPORE — Capitalist East Asian nations have begun to examine regional security, trying to knit a growing web of relationships into a wider network, bringing in consultation with communist China, Vietnam and Russia.

Diplomats and officials at two days of talks on Asian security that have ended here at the weekend said the group was off to a good start even if concrete actions were nowhere in sight and more players were needed.

"It may be a chameleon-like body, starting out as one thing and then becoming another," one western diplomat said.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand — decided last year to invite its seven leading trade partners for its first-ever talks on regional security.

The seven — the United States, the European Community, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea — are ASEAN's leading arms sup-

pliers and for some, treaty partners.

A statement issued after the talks expressed concern about the violent run-up to the May 23-28 Cambodian elections and North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme. No statement of joint action was made, nor expected.

"The most important thing to come out of this meeting was that there was a meeting. A year ago you wouldn't have predicted that," an Asian diplomat said.

"The first thing is to get all the players at the table."

Canada will study and report on "conflict prevention" and non-proliferation and Australia on possible confidence-building measures like an arms sales register and information exchanges by defence planners and on military exercises.

A ministerial meeting of the group in Singapore in July will attempt to formalise the body. Officials from Russia, China, Laos and Vietnam will be in Singapore as observers.

realistic.

"The CSCE lays down specific formulas for specific situations," a western diplomat said. "People out here want an informal approach, more intensive dialogue to create something that doesn't impose formulas."

The United States was still seen as key to the region.

"In no small way, America's presence in the region keeps Asians from provoking fights with Asians," Singapore's ambassador at large, Tommy Koh, wrote in an article last week.

The United States has security treaties with Japan, South Korea, Australia, Thailand and the Philippines. Britain, Australia and New Zealand hold annual air and naval exercises with Singapore and Malaysia under the 20-year-old, commonwealth-inspired five power defence arrangements.

"Existing arrangements include all kind of bilateral agreements we have on exercising together. It's that network that is the basis of this process," a western official said.

"It did demonstrate the potential of regional security discussions," a senior American official said.

"We're very comfortable with integrating key players like China and Russia in this so that it's made clear that this is not a grouping directed in any country."

"It was clear everyone wants us to stay out here. We carried the message that we will stay. At the same time the Asians are picking up more of the burden and supporting our presence. It's got to be a two-way street."

Tiny Singapore is setting the pace for regional "networking", signing agreements since 1990 to allow U.S. naval and air forces greater access. Malaysia has also allowed U.S. ship access to its Lumut naval yard.

In February Singapore held its first naval exercises with India. In March, plans for army exercises with the Philippines were announced as well as a pact to use an Australian base near Perth for air force pilot training.

Singapore already uses Thailand, Taiwan and Brunei for military exercises and has built an air combat range with Indonesia in Sumatra.

Personal example could help stop smoking

By Carolyn S. Carlson

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A campaign in China to get elementary school children to nag their fathers to stop smoking, being cited by U.S. health officials urging countries to adopt cessation programmes for World No-Tobacco Day on May 31.

Another successful anti-smoking campaign was launched by a Buddhist abbot in rural Thailand, whose influence was cited by 80 per cent of the former smokers in a village in his district, the centre for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention said Thursday.

The U.S. agency urged countries observing World No-Tobacco Day to emphasise to doctors and other health care professionals that they will be more effective in urging patients to quit if

they stop smoking themselves. "Health care workers and religious leaders can serve as role models, and children can encourage a non-smoking, tobacco-free lifestyle. It could be one of them or anyone else who can provide the motivation to quit," said CDC epidemiologist Dana M. Shelton.

In the China experiment, 6,843 children asked their fathers to quit smoking and then asked them every day for six months whether they were still smoking. The nagging prompted 90 per cent to quit for at least 10 days, 49 per cent for 30 days and 12 per cent for the entire 180 days.

"What's remarkable is that they were able to get 90 per cent of the fathers to quit for at least 10 days," Miss Shelton said. "If you can move people to at least attempt to quit, hopefully they'll

keep trying and eventually will quit."

Overall, the percentage of smoking fathers dropped from 68.8 per cent to 60.7 per cent among the 10,395 children in 23 schools in the Gongshu District of Hangzhou, the CDC said. That compared with a drop of 0.2 per cent among fathers in a similar-size control group.

Only children whose fathers smoked kept the logs for the six-month period, which ended in January 1990.

The children's knowledge of health problems associated with smoking also rose, dramatically during the six months, the CDC said, citing scores on a test.

He also mandated that all new monks abstain from smoking and counseled villagers on the health hazards of smoking.

When Thai health officials checked in 1991, 80.3 per cent of the former smokers in one village cited the encouragement of a monk as an important reason that they had quit, the CDC said.

That compared with only 25.6 per cent of former smokers citing the influence of religious leaders in a village outside the abbot's district.

"What this tells us is that involving religious leaders in tobacco control or smoking cessation can influence smokers to break their addiction to nicotine," Miss Shelton said. "It could very well work in many U.S. communities, wherever religious leaders are considered influential."

U.S. economic growth nearly stalls during first three months of 1993

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer caution and deteriorating foreign trade held economic growth to an anemic 0.9 per cent annual rate during the first three months of this year, the government said Friday.

The Clinton administration tried to use the report to boost its deficit-reduction bill, but economists said tax increases in the legislation would moderate any rebound from the first-quarter slump.

Growth, as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP) the sum of goods and services produced within U.S. borders, was less than one-fifth the robust 4.7 per cent rate of the fourth quarter, the Commerce Department said. And it was just half the preliminary estimate of 1.8 per cent.

Stock prices and the value of the dollar fell after the report's release. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown said it "confirms our view that the economy is not growing fast enough to create new jobs and economic opportunities for the American people."

He said the administration's deficit-reduction bill would "create a new economic environment in which investment and produc-

tivity supplant deficits and debt as the driving forces in the economy."

The bill cleared the House Thursday night by just six votes and faces substantial opposition in the Senate.

Economists said fear of higher taxes in the bill and in the administration's yet-to-be-released health care proposal are taking the edge off growth.

"It's making people skittish... businesses see it as a factor that will cause the economy to lose momentum so they delay hiring and, in some cases, capital spending," said Lawrence Chimierne, a Philadelphia-based economist working for Dri-McGraw Hill.

The first quarter was the weakest since the final three months of 1991, early in the recovery period following the official June 1991 end of the recession, the fourth quarter of 1992 had been the best in five years.

In a separate report, the department said a big drop in exports caused the nation's merchandise trade deficit to shoot up 12 per cent to \$29.07 billion in first quarter, the widest gap in more than four years.

Much of the lapse in GDP

growth came from a sharp reduction in the growth rate of consumer spending. It was 1.2 per cent in the first quarter versus 5.1 per cent in the fourth.

At the same time, economic slowdowns for two key U.S. trading partners, Germany and Japan, are further dragging down the U.S. economy. American exports fell at a 2.6 per cent annual rate while imports from abroad increased at a 12 per cent rate.

"Fundamentally trade is not a sector that will be boosting the economy. As long as the United States is growing faster than the rest of the world, particularly Europe and Japan, net exports will be a drag on the economy," said economist Laurence Meyer, a St. Louis-based consultant.

Another sector crimping growth in the first quarter was government spending, down at a 7.3 per cent annual rate. Military spending plunged 25.9 per cent, the biggest drop since the government began tracking that category in 1972.

Housing was weak, too. Residential construction edged down at a 0.2 per cent annual rate, compared with a 25.1 per cent surge in the fourth quarter.

However, economists expect a rebound in the second quarter. Unusually severe winter weather, including a blizzard that struck the east coast in mid-March, held down construction in the first.

On the bright side, business investment in new equipment and machinery surged at a 16.5 per cent annual rate, even better than the 8.6 per cent originally estimated. That followed a robust 14.5 per cent increase in the fourth quarter.

Analysts say the investment rate, if maintained, should improve the productivity of American businesses and eventually lead to a healthier economy. But for now, businesses are getting the money for investment from profits produced by conservative hiring practices and cost-cutting.

After-tax corporate profits rose 5.3 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$253.8 billion, following an 8.5 per cent rise in the fourth quarter, the department said. Dividends were up 2.8 per cent after a 3.2 per cent increase.

The various changes added \$11.7 billion to the GDP, bringing it to a seasonally and inflation-adjusted annual rate of \$5 trillion.

S. Korea announces 5-year reform plan

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea's finance ministry announced a sweeping five-year economic reform plan Saturday aimed at curbing the power of conglomerates and modernising financial markets.

The package is aimed at promoting the competitiveness of the nation's financial industry as it moves toward full liberalisation.

"By 1997, Korea will have firmly established a basic framework for modernising the financial market to the level of counterparts in the West," said Finance Minister Hong Jae-Hyong.

The plan calls for lifting internal restrictions before future market openings and offers timetables to help the financial markets prepare for change. It also suggests the creation of new financial conglomerates.

The new conglomerates would exclude participation by the top industrial giants, which have grown and benefited from past government policies of low-cost and long-term loans, officials said.

There has been growing public criticism that South Korea's giant conglomerates dominate the economy and consume smaller competitors. Candidates in the December presidential elections

pledged to curb the power of the conglomerates.

The ministry said that if strict guidelines fail to prevent the conglomerates from abusing financial institutions and using them as private banks, they may be ordered to reduce their shares in financial institutions.

The new plan calls for the full liberalisation of all interest rates, except for those on demand deposits, by 1996. It said the government would consider the introduction of the deposit insurance system in 1997 to protect depositors from possible bank collapses.

The ministry said Korea will establish a supervisory organisation to oversee leasing, short term finance, mutual savings and finance companies and other ancillary financial service firms.

It said that from this year banks will be permitted to deal in a limited range of securities business, but that they will lose their monopoly on foreign exchange services.

Securities houses will be able to sell investment trust products between 1996 and 1997 and investment trust companies will stop retailing their products and specialise in fund management, the

ministry said.

The ministry said it would simplify bank procedures for writing off uncollectible loans.

It said procedures would maintain the strict separation of business boundaries between banks, securities and insurance business, but the financial firms can theoretically muscle into each other's turf through subsidiaries.

The new plan is to be implemented July 1.

South Korea last week announced growth figures that government planners and economists said indicated the economy was showing signs of recovery after hitting rock bottom at the end of last year.

But critics said it was too early to judge whether the economy was back on an even keel.

The Central Bank of Korea (BOK) said gross national product (GNP) grew a real 3.3 per cent in the first quarter, far below a 7.4 per cent rise a year earlier.

But the first quarter growth compared favourably with a 2.8 per cent rise in the final three months of last year, the lowest rise for 12 years.

"The 3.3 per cent rise may not look impressive. But we have the

view the economy hit the bottom in the fourth quarter and we would expect further improvement in the second and third quarters," said Park Sang-Chul, BOK director of statistics.

Some analysts had earlier predicted the economy would slip into recession for the first time since 1980 when GNP retreated 3.7 per cent.

GNP, the measure of a country's total value of goods and services produced, grew at a 13-year low of 4.7 per cent last year, following an 8.4 per cent rise in 1991.

South Koreans, accustomed to double-digit GNP growth in the late 1980s, consider current growth levels low.

The BOK said exports of goods and services in the first quarter increased 12.1 per cent, up from 5.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year, providing the most convincing source of optimism.

"The appreciation of the yen helped (South Korean exporters). Price stability, won through years of austerity, also helped enhance the competitiveness of South Korean products," said Shim Chang-Dal, a senior fellow of the state Korea Development Institute (KDI).

GDP figures confirm worst postwar recession in Germany

BONN (R) — The west German economy shrank by one per cent in the first quarter of this year and by a hefty three per cent compared with year earlier, the economics ministry said Friday.

Its provisional figures for gross domestic product (GDP) confirmed Finance Minister Theo Waigel's Waigel's assertion Thursday that the country is in its worst economic crisis since World War II. Official GDP data will be released on June 3.

Economists said the figures were in line with their increasingly gloomy forecasts for the west German economy.

"This confirms what we knew — GDP and industrial production are in a persistent downward trend," said Peter Piesch, economist with Commerzbank in Frankfurt.

Stefan Schneider, chief eco-

nomist at Nomura Research in Frankfurt, said the final first-quarter GDP figure would be even worse. "We are expecting a drop of 1.5 per cent," he said.

Most economists now foresee west German GDP for the whole of 1993 falling around 1.5 to two per cent.

The IFO research institute said in a report this week that west German industry was still very sceptical about the chances of any pick-up in the economy in the immediate future.

"The second quarter will see another fall. It's going to get worse before it gets better," said Glen Liddy, economist at Kleinwort Benson Research in London.

Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt told parliament Thursday that the recession was worse

than anyone had expected.

Economists said industrial production and orders: data for April, due in the next few weeks, were likely to provide further cause for concern. In March, west German industry output fell 0.6 per cent while orders plunged three per cent.

Industrial production makes up about 40 per cent of GDP, which comprises the total output of goods and services in an economy, excluding income from abroad.

The negative growth figures are grim news for a government struggling to control a runaway budget deficit while raising the vast sums needed to rebuild former communist East Germany. A deepening recession means falling tax revenues and rising payouts to increasing numbers of jobless.

Japan to resume yen loans to Iran

TOKYO (R) — Japan is to resume yen loans of up to 38.6 billion yen (\$360 million) to Iran, the first such loans since March 1976, a foreign ministry official said Saturday.

The untied loans will carry an interest rate of three per cent a year, and a 25-year repayment period, with a grace period of seven years. Notes on the loan were exchanged Saturday in Tehran, the ministry said.

The funds are to be used to build a hydroelectric power station on the Karun river in southern Iran. In May 1991, then-foreign minister Taro Nakayama said in Tehran that Tokyo would consider offering official development assistance including yen loans, the official said.

A recent meeting of the Asso-

ciation of Tin Producing Countries (ATPC) has also done little for market sentiment, as although it reported 1992 exports were below permitted levels, stocks have risen.

At the end of March 1993 world tin stocks had risen to 40,000 tonnes from 38,200 tonnes at the end of 1992. The ATPC's intention is for stocks to fall to 20,000 tonnes.

The root of the tin market's troubles lies in the 1985 collapse of the International Tin Council's attempt to prop up prices at artificially high levels.

Since then the ATPC has struggled to reduce the inventory overhang caused by unfettered production by restricting exports. The problem is key producers Brazil and China are not members.

Also, the United States is now selling metal from its strategic stockpile. Mr. Worthington noted, U.S. tin disposals have risen from around 3,000 tonnes annually in 1989 to around 9,000 tonnes, and there is still over 154,000 tonnes of metal left in the

stockpile.

"The faltering U.S. economic recovery is giving rise to concern that demand will not pick up to any extent this year," Biliton said.

European demand is uninspiring and Japanese tin usage continues to fall, and Biliton fore-

cast total consumption falling in 1993 for the third successive year to 175,000 tonnes, from 179,000 tonnes last year.

Also, metal from Russia is now arriving at regular intervals in the West, with traders picking up discounted tin from Poland and the Baltic states.

Jordan Times
Tel.: 667171

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 30, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Test what your advisers say against your intuitive hunches as you search for the right answers to the minor problems that occur in your busy path today as the Moon times the Sun. Smile and relax.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Avoid the world of outside activity early in the day but then soon you find you are able to make some new interests or contacts that are highly beneficial.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't get confused over what to do about a new interest or continuing with a secret plan but go along with casual activities while later plan future business moves.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You certainly should think about your personal aims and not waste time on daydreaming about a business interest while later a longtime partner supports your wishes.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You find a situation between an official and a partner untenable for your best progress so avoid them both instead schedule activities to come.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about approaching your finest convictions from a new angle, put off confusing tasks until a better time and put more effort in your special talent.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in mind for pleasures should await analysis of just how much you can afford but tonight spend time at new interest with your mate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be out of the house early and join outsiders who are up and doing so that your joint success can be assured, later visit proven friends for reassurance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can eliminate some muddled thinking where your ideas have been concerned and you can also schedule time and energy to be put on practical matters later.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day to forego today's temptation to fret about financial matters and instead have a good time at pleasures within your pocket.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can have a misunderstanding about a vital matter in your life today but find that your best place is with your family, who give good advice.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are very interested in other persons and their welfare and can now find ways to be of more helpfulness to them so forget yourself, do for others.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the day for you to listen to the suggestions of a purposeful supporter who understands what your problems are, then apply them to outside problems.

Russia lifts veil of secrecy on gold sales, output

MOSCOW (R) — Russia lifted its veil of secrecy over gold production and exports Friday, forecasting steady 1993 production and promising a "balanced and moderate approach" to selling gold on world markets.

Yevgeny Bychkov, chairman of the Precious Metals Committee told a rare news conference that Russia had produced 146 tonnes of gold in 1992 and expected to produce the same in 1993.

Exports totalled 98 tonnes in 1992 and the country, a major producer, had sold 21 tonnes of

gold abroad so far this year.

"I do not think sales of gold will change substantially," Mr. Bychkov said. "The government has a balanced and moderate approach to the matter."

Figures for gold production, exports and reserves were for long a closely guarded secret in the Soviet Union.

The first glimpse behind the veil came in November 1991 when economist Grigory Yavlinsky said Soviet reserves were 240 tonnes, a figure which sent world gold markets into turmoil.

Western experts had put reserves at twice that level although they agreed that stocks had been falling for several years as the country struggled to find hard currency.

Other figures for gold reserves have been released since then, but data are frequently confusing and contradictory.

Mr. Bychkov said his committee currently held 200.5 tonnes of gold in its reserves, up from 175 tonnes at the end of 1992.

It had handed 133 tonnes to the central bank last year,

although Mr. Bychkov could not say if the central bank had already sold some of this gold on world markets or if it held gold reserves before the transfer.

In January 1992 — also before the transfer — the committee's reserves were 290 tonnes.

Mr. Bychkov said Russia's gold industry would need annual investment of 70 or 80 billion roubles (\$70 or \$80 million), simply to keep production stable.

But gold producers had suffered less than other metals pro-

ducers because Russia's decision to charge world prices for gold sold on the domestic market meant these producers were receiving adequate funds.

Gold production in 1992 was six or seven per cent below the 1991 level, he said. The 1992 fall in Russian industrial production was about 20 per cent.

The Precious Metals Committee was set up in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Bychkov said Russia was keen to increase domestic jewellery production and curb the role

of South African giant De Beers in selling Russian gems.

"The main point of dissatisfaction in our position with De Beers is we want to increase our capability to sell diamonds, not only in Moscow, but also in other countries," he said.

De Beers currently sells most Russian rough diamonds under a five-year \$5 billion deal. Russia sells five per cent of its exports on the free market to check the "real" price of the gems and determine if the price paid by De Beers is fair.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"Stanley can't talk right now. He doesn't evolve into a human until his second cup of coffee!"

Peanuts

I DON'T THINK THE SCHOOL BUS IS EVER GOING TO COME... I THINK THEY'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT US... MAYBE WE SHOULD START WALKING... DOES ANYONE REMEMBER THE NAME OF OUR SCHOOL?

Andy Capp

SURELY THE GAME IS OVER, ALREADY, FLO? HE GOT SENT OFF, MUM. IT WAS VERY UNFAIR - THE REFEREE JUST LOOKED WORSE THAN I WAS.

Mutt'n'Jeff

JEFF WE HAVE SOME VERY VALUABLE MERCHANDISE ON DISPLAY! IT'S YOUR JOB TO WATCH FOR SHOPLIFTERS.

THAT WOMAN LOOKS LIKE SHE'S PUTTING SOMETHING IN HER BAG! LADY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE? OH DEAR! WHO ARE YOU? I'M A DETECTIVE! HERE'S MY BADGE.

OH, YOU ARE NOT! MY LITTLE BOY HAS ONE OF THOSE! OH, SHE DIDN'T WAIT! WELL, WHERE IS SHE?

I AM SO! AND I'LL GET THE MANAGER TO PROVE IT! DON'T GO AWAY, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart

ACROSS

- 1 Hello
- 6 Be full of
- 10 October
- 14 "Peanuts" character
- 15 La Douce
- 16 Flower holder
- 17 Race sign-off
- 19 Divisible by two
- 20 Always, to poets
- 21 Social functions
- 22 Minutary act
- 24 Russian city
- 25 Courage
- 26 - off (pronounced)
- 29 Stocking type
- 33 Marlinque volcano
- 34 Eve's grandson
- 35 Across Raines
- 36 On - with (equal to)
- 37 Bridge lewis
- 38 Time period
- 39 Vacances
- 40 Permanent
- 41 Clementine's father was one
- 42 Tissue layer
- 44 Sickless
- 45 - "Lang Syne"
- 46 - "A - for Adano"
- 47 Sea bird
- 50 Italy's shape
- 51 Timeable abbr.
- 54 Small
- 55 Obese
- 58 Clown's unit
- 59 Cable
- 60 lay ram
- 61 Strip
- 62 Hourglass contents
- 63 Hirsch of football

DOWN

- 1 Cosmetic ingredient
- 2 East
- 3 Humdringer
- 4 "Ben"
- 5 - poem
- 6 Of ocean currents
- 7 Dapid
- 8 Flightless bird
- 9 Bed part
- 10 Too old
- 11 Say concrete
- 12 Crustacean
- 13 Pre-Easter period
- 14 Lack
- 23 Hogue
- 24 In a precarious position
- 25 Pithy saying
- 26 Muscular contraction
- 27 Indian abode
- 28 Warning signal
- 29 Rogue
- 30 Actress Massey
- 31 Pasted
- 32 Belatione
- 34 Aniseed
- 36 Adams
- 37 Migratory birds
- 41 Cat or feline
- 43 Regret
- 44 Kitten sound
- 46 Unintended
- 47 Fanfare
- 48 Ms Adams
- 49 Heavy book
- 50 Swiss city
- 51 Hungarian city
- 52 Huatable son
- 53 Lawyer abbr
- 55 By way of
- 57 Under the weather

Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. HELLO, 6. FULL, 10. OCTOBER, 14. PEANUTS, 15. LA DOUCE, 16. FLOWER HOLDER, 17. RACE SIGN-OFF, 19. DIVISIBLE BY TWO, 20. ALWAYS, 21. SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, 22. MINUTARY ACT, 24. MOSCOW, 25. COURAGE, 26. OFF, 29. STOCKING TYPE, 33. MARLINQUE, 34. EVE'S GRANDSON, 35. ACROSS RAINES, 36. ON - WITH, 37. BRIDGE LEWIS, 38. TIME PERIOD, 39. VACANCES, 40. PERMANENT, 41. CLEMENTINE'S FATHER WAS ONE, 42. TISSUE LAYER, 44. SICKLESS, 45. LANG SYNE, 46. A FOR ADANO, 47. SEA BIRD, 50. ITALY'S SHAPE, 51. TIMEABLE ABBR., 54. SMALL, 55. OBESE, 58. CLOWN'S UNIT, 59. CABLE, 60. LAY RAM, 61. STRIP, 62. HOURGLASS CONTENTS, 63. HIRSCH OF FOOTBALL.

DOWN: 1. COSMETIC INGREDIENT, 2. EAST, 3. HUMDRINGER, 4. BEN, 5. POEM, 6. OF OCEAN CURRENTS, 7. DAPID, 8. FLIGHTLESS BIRD, 9. BED PART, 10. TOO OLD, 11. SAY CONCRETE, 12. CRUSTACEAN, 13. PRE-EASTER PERIOD, 14. LACK, 23. HOGUE, 24. IN A PRECARIOUS POSITION, 25. PITHY SAYING, 26. MUSCULAR CONTRACTION, 27. INDIAN ABODE, 28. WARNING SIGNAL, 29. ROGUE, 30. ACTRESS MASSEY, 31. PASTED, 32. BELATIONE, 34. ANISEED, 36. ADAMS, 37. MIGRATORY BIRDS, 41. CAT OR FELINE, 43. REGRET, 44. KITTEN SOUND, 46. UNINTENDED, 47. FANFARE, 48. MS ADAMS, 49. HEAVY BOOK, 50. SWISS CITY, 51. HUNGARIAN CITY, 52. HUATABLE SON, 53. LAWYER ABBR, 55. BY WAY OF, 57. UNDER THE WEATHER.

Serbs attack last Muslim stronghold in eastern Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb forces are waging a fierce offensive on the blockaded Muslim enclave of Gorazde, the only Muslim stronghold in eastern Bosnia which they have failed to capture or neutralise, Sarajevo Radio reported Saturday.

The attack, including intense barrages of artillery and rocket fire, was launched Friday and was the heaviest this year on the town 70 kilometres east of Sarajevo, it added.

The radio said villages around Gorazde were burning and that civilian casualties were heavy.

A spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia said U.N. peacekeepers could not confirm the scale of the fighting because Serbs kept their military observers out of the area.

The Yugoslav army denied a claim by the radio that up to 2,500 of its troops were taking part in the action against Gorazde where around 60,000 Muslims have been trapped since Bosnia's civil war began 14 months ago.

The radio alleged the Yugoslav army forces were based in Uzice across the border in Serbia.

It said Bosnian Serb forces were also continuing attacks on the Muslim town of Maglaj and Muslim positions near Brcko, both in northern Bosnia.

Gorazde is one of four Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia which have been designated as safe areas by the United Nations in an attempt to preserve a Muslim presence in the region which was

ethnically mixed when the war began.

The others are Srebrenica, Zepa and Tuzla. Only the latter, which lies further north, is relatively secure.

Srebrenica and Zepa, although under the protection of token U.N. peacekeeping forces, are surrounded by Serb besiegers and U.N. aid officials said the condition of their inhabitants was parlous.

John McMillan, a spokesman in Sarajevo for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said local people and refugees in Srebrenica were competing for food and shelter and relations between them were deteriorating.

"The situation there is very bad," he said. "There is a lot of chaos. They don't have the basic necessities human beings need to survive in a civilised manner. They're not on the verge of starvation but they desperately need water."

Serb forces control the water pumping and filtration plant on which Srebrenica relies.

The international charity Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) warned Saturday that Srebrenica would run out of water within days, exposing its remaining 25,000 inhabitants to the risk of epidemic.

The efficacy of the safe area concept agreed by Western powers and Russia after Bosnian Serbs rejected a U.N.-backed

peace plan, has been questioned by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

In a paper to the Security Council, he said: "Clearly any concept of safe areas must assume the cooperation of the warring parties."

"Without a ceasefire in the region of the safe areas, the concept of the safe areas is virtually impossible to implement."

The Bosnian Serb army blamed Muslim provocations for the fighting around Maglaj and accused Muslims of shelling nearby Teslic.

A Reuters correspondent who visited Maglaj Friday said surrounding Serb artillery was wreaking havoc on the mining town and its 45,000 population.

The shelling is the worst part, a local woman said. "We can stand everything else but we are always waiting for the next shell. They're trying to kill us psychologically."

Bosnian Muslim and Croat commanders have agreed on the limits of a U.N. "safe area" around Sarajevo, but rebel Serbs boycotted the talks as fighting flared across the embattled republic.

"The problem is the usual one: The Serbs haven't agreed and they're the ones shelling the city," said a United Nations peacekeeper who attended Friday's meeting.

As he spoke, Muslim and Serb forces duelled with mortars and

artillery in Sarajevo, killing one person and wounding 13 in an upsurge of fighting in the besieged Bosnian capital.

After a tank barrage on the city's old town district in the afternoon, Serb artillery turned their fire on the centre of city in the evening.

A Bosnian Serb army commander, General Stanislav Galic, issued a protest to the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR), accusing the Muslims and Croats of provoking the Serbs into responding and then blaming them for shelling Sarajevo.

"Due to a total media blockade of Serb positions around Sarajevo by major foreign television and radio companies, the two other sides can impose any scenario they like and show the Serbs in a bad light," he said.

General Philippe Morillon, UNPROFOR commander in Bosnia, hosted Friday's meeting in Sarajevo, which had been scheduled to involve all three parties.

Gen. Morillon said Serb commander General Ratko Mladic had refused to attend because of dissatisfaction over previous "safe area" agreements on Srebrenica and Zepa, Muslim-held towns in central Bosnia under Serb siege.

But Gen. Morillon indicated he had received new assurances from Muslim commander for Bosnia Sefer Halilovic and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic which he thought would satisfy Gen. Mladic.



South Korean riot police Saturday clash with students during protests in Seoul (AFP photo)

40,000 students battle police in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — About 40,000 students shouting "Yankee go home" fought fierce hand-to-hand battles with riot police in central Seoul Saturday. Dozens of riot police and students were injured.

It was the biggest street protest in the capital since President Kim Young-Sam took office in February. In one clash alone, about 30 students and police were injured, several, seriously, but an exact overall figure was not immediately available.

At one point, students overpowered about 100 riot police and kicked them and beat them with steel pipes. The police were forced to kneel on the pavement and were insulted. They were released after being disarmed.

Police fired tear gas whenever students tried to march towards the U.S. embassy, several blocks away. Several groups of students broke away from the march and clashed violently with police in alleyways and side streets.

At the embassy, about 2,000 riot police, backed up by at least eight armoured multiple tear gas launchers, were deployed around the perimeter of the compound and along the boulevard in front of it.

"Drive out Yankees" students shouted, waving flags and banners. One student carried a large

placard of the Stars and Stripes which he beat with his hands.

Student leaders said they had planned to deliver a statement to the embassy demanding an apology from Washington for allegedly condoning a government crackdown in the southern city of Kwangju in 1980.

Students stacked helmets, batons and other police gear they seized and set them on fire in the middle of a major 10-lane boulevard as acrid black smoke billowed towards the city centre.

At nightfall, police fired tear gas to drive back 3,000 students in western Seoul from the homes of two former presidents. Students are demanding punishment of the former leaders for the bloodshed in Kwangju.

"Punish Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo," students chanted as they marched. Some shouted, "execute Roh. Execute Chun."

Six giant garbage trucks were parked as barricades across a major street leading to the residential area where the two ex-presidents have homes.

Students charge that Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, as army generals, ordered troops to shoot civilians in Kwangju after seizing power in an army coup. They have demanded an investigation and are angry at President Kim Young-

Sam's appeal to forgive those responsible.

By official count, about 200 people were killed and more than 2,000 others injured or wounded in the Kwangju uprising, the bloodiest in modern Korean history.

About 30,000 riot police were deployed in Seoul for the protests and at nightfall many of them remained in and around the city centre.

Student leaders said their plan was to deliver a statement to the U.S. embassy demanding Washington's apology for allegedly condoning the Kwangju bloodshed.

Public demands for the investigation of wrongdoing by the two former presidents grew after Kim Young-Sam took office in February as South Korea's first civilian president in three decades.

Mr. Kim, a former dissident and victim of past military-dominated government, has pushed a reform drive to end the authoritarian legacy of his predecessors.

In Kim's 3-month-old campaign, about 1,000 government officials, educators and business leaders have been arrested or purged. They included a dozen legislators and government officials who were supporters of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh.

No safety belt? Pay up or go for a spin

PARIS (R) — Motorists caught driving without their safety belt on in the eastern French town of Nancy are given a choice: Pay a 150-franc (\$30) fine or go for a spin. Police place those who refuse to pay in a car turning over and over to show them what it would be like to be in an accident — with the belt on. Some offenders are scared and pay up. Most prefer the simulated accident, but admit after the dizzying experience that wearing the belt is safer. Police said the choice will only last this week. Next week it will be a fine for all.

German drivers halted by 60,000 litres of beer

KAMEN, Germany (R) — Around 60,000 litres of foaming beer flooded a German motorway, blocking traffic between Kamen and Hanover for an hour, police said. A lorry carrying the beer struck a barrier after suffering a tyre blow out and the booby cargo split across the road. Before the fire brigade could siphon away the beer, rain washed away the hazardous alcohol, letting the speedy German drivers resume their journey. Germany's autobahnen are the last motorways in the Western world without general speed limits.

Sweden clamps down on smoking

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's parliament has voted to outlaw tobacco advertising and ban smoking in schools and hospitals. The single-chamber Riksdag approved the bans by 188 votes to 84, but stopped short of imposing an age restriction on buying cigarettes. The vote followed warnings by doctors and teachers that young people were taking up smoking, despite medical evidence that it caused lung cancer, heart and other health problems.

Sweden's tobacco industry criticised the decision, saying it would favour foreign brands advertised in foreign publications imported to Sweden, as had happened in Finland and Norway which have similar bans on advertising. "It will help international tobacco companies market their products at our cost," Bo Aulin, a director at the Swedish Tobacco Company told the Swedish News Agency (TT). The Dutch government also introduced measures to curb smoking announcing it would ban high-tar cigarettes from next year and some lower tar brands from 1998. The Netherlands, which is proud of its culture of individual liberty and is one of the only countries in the world to tolerate the sale of marijuana, is introducing the ban to comply with a European Community directive.

The rolling tobacco used by many Dutch people will be unaffected because it is too difficult to calculate the amount of tar in self-rolled cigarettes, a Health Ministry spokesman said.

Swedish 15-year-olds get free condoms

STOCKHOLM (R) — Fifteen-year-olds on the Swedish summer resort island of Oland will be given free condoms when they graduate. All ninth graders will receive coupons which they can exchange for a free packet of condoms and a bottle of sunscreen oil, the daily Barometern reported Friday. "This is not an invitation for teenagers to have sex. It is a request for them to use condoms if they have sex," said Kjell Johansson, head of a group which organises courses and summer events at Oland off southern Sweden.

U.S. library acquires entire Mingus archive

NEW YORK (R) — Fourteen years after his death, Charles Mingus' unique jazz compositions are coming out of the Greenwich Village night clubs where they have been played for decades and entering the pre-eminent U.S. library. Mingus next week will become the first jazz musician to have his full body of compositions, letters, essays and tapes acquired by the Library of Congress, the national library. "This is the greatest, most important body of work related to a jazz composer that we've acquired," said Jon Newsom, assistant chief of the library's music division. "We think of him as a major American composer. Were he alive, Mingus might be grinning. He always sought greater recognition for his pieces that mixed blues, gospel, Latin, swing, bebop, European classical, chants, and cries in a melting pot of composition and improvisation. 'I wasn't raised in a night club,' he once said, but this was the venue for more than a generation of jazz artists who were new part of the American cultural establishment. Mingus titled his most ambitious work 'Epitaph' and left it in his closet."

Arson kills 5 Turks in Germany

SOLINGEN, Germany (R) — An arson attack killed five Turks and injured three children early Saturday in the western German city of Solingen in what police said could be another major neo-Nazi attack on foreigners.

The house was inhabited by 20 members of one extended family. The dead included three women and two girls of nine and four. A six-month old baby and a three-year old child were fighting for their lives in hospital, while a 15-year-old youth was undergoing treatment at a special burns unit.

"Because of the fact that the house was exclusively inhabited by foreigners, racist motivation cannot be excluded, especially as there are no indications of other motives," a spokesman for the Federal Prosecutor's Office said.

Police said the fire, which broke out at 1.42 a.m. (2342 GMT), was started deliberately at the entrance to the house and quickly engulfed the entire building.

The incident closely resembled an attack on a house in the northern town of Moelln last November in which three Turks — a middle-aged woman and two girls — were killed at the height of a wave of violence against foreigners that killed 17 people last year.

The Moelln attack brought thousands of Germans onto the streets in candlelight marches against racism, and prompted the government to launch a major clampdown on right-wing groups.

Some 2,000 Turks and Germans marched through the centre of Solingen Saturday to mourn the deaths of the five Turks who died in the fire.

Counter-intelligence officials have cautioned for some time that such attacks could happen and trigger further waves of racial hatred.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel sent a letter to Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin expressing his sympathy for the victims and their relatives.

"I am aghast at such an act of horror," Mr. Kinkel said.

"Your people and your many compatriots who live here and whom we respect should know the federal government will not let Germany's image abroad as a country friendly to foreigners be destroyed by a few misguided anarchists and racists."

Relatives and neighbours of the family stood around the smouldering remains of the house, grieving for the dead and injured.

"They are lovely, friendly, helpful people," said neighbour Claudia Vollmer.

One neighbour said she had got up in the night to see a woman in the burning house with a child in her arms silhouetted in a window against the fire.

Another woman living nearby said she heard "bone-chilling screams and then silence, just the noise of the flames."

A television station reported that one of the dead women had been killed jumping from a second-floor window.

Walesa dissolves parliament to call early polls

WARSAW (AP) — President Lech Walesa dissolved Poland's first democratically elected parliament Saturday after it brought down the government in a no-confidence vote.

He refused to accept the resignation of Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka, deciding instead to disband the parliament, where 20 odd bickering parties have made it impossible to form a stable government.

The developments highlight the difficulty of building a democracy in a country ruled by Communists since World War II. Ms. Suchocka is the fifth prime minister since the Communists were toppled in 1989.

The chaos will delay progress on Poland's economic transformation to a market economy and damage its standing with international sources of aid and investment. One newspaper headline read, "Without a government? Without a parliament? Without sense."

People seemed fed up with the political machinations.

"It shows our political leaders aren't responsible," said 21-year-old Pawel Majkusiak, a student.

"Everything was finally on track, and now I am afraid of what is going to happen."

Mr. Walesa must schedule elections within four months, two years early. Ms. Suchocka will serve in the interim but without a parliament to pass laws. She may be able to get the right to rule on some economic issues by decree. However, parliament must agree before leaving. If the lawmakers reject the special powers, the government will be virtually paralysed for months.

The dissolution of parliament is effective with the official publication of Mr. Walesa's decision likely in several days. The lawmakers remained in session Saturday to debate mining.

The country will likely see a bitter election campaign. However, Mr. Walesa is expected to sign an election law passed by parliament Friday that would limit the parties reaching the chamber to those receiving at least 5 per cent of the popular vote.

Ms. Suchocka's government fell on the motion of the Solidarity trade union movement, which fought for a market economy but now thinks workers are suffering too much. However, nationalist parties on the right and the former Communists to the left joined in the no-confidence vote, each pursuing its own political ambitions.

Ms. Suchocka, backed by the International Monetary Fund, has argued there is no less painful course through the economic transformation. She has refused to give in to demands for pay raises and welfare benefits, saying she will not follow the Communist route of printing money without backing to ease social tension and stay in power.

Mr. Walesa has supported Ms. Suchocka, but without taking an active role to quell strikes and protests during recent months.

Florence car bomb victims buried

FLORENCE (R) — A family killed by a car bomb that severely damaged Florence's Uffizi Art Gallery was buried Saturday and newspapers called on the government to bring those responsible to justice.

Thousands of weeping people applauded as the four coffins of the Nencioni family were carried out of San Carlo Church, where relatives held a private funeral, instead of a state service.

Fabrizio and Angela Nencioni and their daughters Nadia, 8, and Caterina, less than two months old, were killed early Thursday when the car bomb — which the government believes was planted by the mafia — went off on the narrow alley below their house.

Children sobbed as white coffins with the bodies of the two girls were placed on the floor of the 14th century church, where Caterina was baptised only a week ago.

Nadia's school friends held copies of a haunting poem she wrote several days before she died. Called *Sunset*, it read: "The afternoon is fading. Sunset is coming. It is a stupendous moment. The sun is going away. It is already night and everything is finished."

The funeral of the fifth known victim, an architecture student, was being held in his hometown in the north.

Italian television said fire brigades believed a sixth victim might still be buried under the rubble.

Authorities have blamed the car bomb attack on the mafia. But some Italians believe its purpose was to derail a political revolution against corruption in high places.

The blast — which sent shock waves through art lovers the world over — destroyed three paintings in the 400-year-old Uffizi. It also damaged some 30 other paintings and three sculptures.

The government has approved 20 million in emergency funds to restore the museum, Italy's most famous after the Vatican.

Thousands of volunteers have offered to help sift through the rubble of a nearby agricultural museum to find bits of damaged books.

One of the buildings severely



Two workers remove a badly damaged painting from the Uffizi Art Gallery in Florence after the car bomb blast which killed six people and damaged priceless art work inside the gallery (AFP photo)

damaged was the Quisisana Pension, setting for the book and film *A Room With a View*.

Newspapers called on the government to make a concerted effort to find the bombers and bring them to justice.

In an editorial entitled *And Now, Toughness*, the *Corriere Della Sera* said Italians were "justifiably exasperated by the impunity which so many criminals...enjoyed for long years."

"They (the bombers) are not supermen," the Milan paper said, adding that Italy should tackle the problem with the same resolve that defeated left-wing terrorism in the mid-1980s.

Some people suggested that the attack was more than just an attempt by the mafia to show its

Clinton picks new communications chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an effort to stem the appearance of disarray at the White House, President Bill Clinton Saturday named Republican David Gergen to his staff as counselor to the president.

"He is a moderate pro-change patriotic American," Mr. Clinton said. "The message here is that we are rising above politics."

Mr. Clinton said George Stephanopoulos, who served as the main spokesman for Mr. Clinton during the campaign and in the first months of his presidency, would move to a senior adviser role.

Mr. Gergen, a political commentator and editor-at-large of U.S. News and World Report, a weekly news magazine, had worked for three Republican presidents.

Chief of Staff Mack McLarty said Mr. Gergen oversees the communications operation. Mr. Stephanopoulos had been the communications director.

Senior White House aides portrayed the move as a way to take advantage of Mr. Stephanopoulos' rapport with the president and his knowledge of Capitol Hill. He shifts to a behind-the-scenes role as senior adviser for policy and strategy.

Mr. Gergen adds a seasoned Washington hand to the White House Staff. That was something even Mr. Clinton's strongest supporters say has been lacking during a recent spate of missteps, from the botched firings of White House Travel Office workers to Mr. Clinton's Hollywood haircut aboard Air Force One.

The move comes as Mr. Clinton's approval ratings continue to spiral downward. New polls for Newsweek and Time magazines said 36 per cent of those surveyed approve of Clinton's job performance.

In a brief announcement with Mr. Gergen at his side, Mr. Clinton said his objective was to find the right combination of people to "improve the lives of the American people."

Mr. Gergen, 51, noted his service for Mr. Clinton's Republi-

can predecessors and said: "You are indeed honouring your pledge to seek a national bipartisan government."

"I hold the old fashioned belief that when a president asks for help there is only one good answer — how soon should I start? Patriotism must come before partisanship," Mr. Gergen said "whatever our philosophical differences, it is obvious that we must seek common ground."

Mr. Gergen served President Richard Nixon from 1971 to 1974 as a staff assistant and as head of his speech-writing and research team. After Mr. Nixon's resignation, he remained on President Gerald Ford's staff as director of communications.

When President Ronald Reagan took office in 1981, Mr. Gergen became staff director, then assistant to the president for communications, remaining until 1983.

Mr. Gergen was a resident fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard until joining U.S. News as managing editor in 1985.

advantage of Mr. Stephanopoulos' rapport with the president and his knowledge of Capitol Hill. He shifts to a behind-the-scenes role as senior adviser for policy and strategy.

Mr. Gergen adds a seasoned Washington hand to the White House Staff. That was something even Mr. Clinton's strongest supporters say has been lacking during a recent spate of missteps, from the botched firings of White House Travel Office workers to Mr. Clinton's Hollywood haircut aboard Air Force One.

The move comes as Mr. Clinton's approval ratings continue to spiral downward. New polls for Newsweek and Time magazines said 36 per cent of those surveyed approve of Clinton's job performance.

In a brief announcement with Mr. Gergen at his side, Mr. Clinton said his objective was to find the right combination of people to "improve the lives of the American people."

Mr. Gergen, 51, noted his service for Mr. Clinton's Republi-

Bhutto levels fierce attack on government

ISLAMABAD (AP) — While opposition leader Benazir Bhutto threatened the government with street protests, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif went on national television to urge an end to petty politics.

Thousands of chanting supporters showered Ms. Bhutto with rose petals as she led a procession Friday through the narrow, winding streets of nearby Rawalpindi. Demonstrators shouting, "long live Benazir," danced wildly alongside Ms. Bhutto's ornately decorated truck.

Ms. Bhutto's hopes of a political comeback ended Wednesday, when the Supreme Court ruled 10-1 to return Mr. Sharif's pro-business government to power. It had been dismissed on April 18.

The former prime minister, who heads the left-leaning Pakistan People's Party, lashed out at the judiciary and threatened street protests.

"The court has issued its verdict but I have come to the court of the people," she told supporters.

In his speech to the nation, Mr. Sharif urged cooperation and said Pakistan has to restore the credibility it lost with the dissolution of his government.

His dismissal made an already jittery international investment community even more nervous.

advantage of Mr. Stephanopoulos' rapport with the president and his knowledge of Capitol Hill. He shifts to a behind-the-scenes role as senior adviser for policy and strategy.

Mr. Gergen adds a seasoned Washington hand to the White House Staff. That was something even Mr. Clinton's strongest supporters say has been lacking during a recent spate of missteps, from the botched firings of White House Travel Office workers to Mr. Clinton's Hollywood haircut aboard Air Force One.

The move comes as Mr. Clinton's approval ratings continue to spiral downward. New polls for Newsweek and Time magazines said 36 per cent of those surveyed approve of Clinton's job performance.

In a brief announcement with Mr. Gergen at his side, Mr. Clinton said his objective was to find the right combination of people to "improve the lives of the American people."

Mr. Gergen, 51, noted his service for Mr. Clinton's Republi-

can predecessors and said: "You are indeed honouring your pledge to seek a national bipartisan government."

"I hold the old fashioned belief that when a president asks for help there is only one good answer — how soon should I start? Patriotism must come before partisanship," Mr. Gergen said "whatever our philosophical differences, it is obvious that we must seek common ground."

Mr. Gergen served President Richard Nixon from 1971 to 1974 as a staff assistant and as head of his speech-writing and research team. After Mr. Nixon's resignation, he remained on President Gerald Ford's staff as director of communications.

When President Ronald Reagan took office in 1981, Mr. Gergen became staff director, then assistant to the president for communications, remaining until 1983.

Mr. Gergen was a resident fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard until joining U.S. News as managing editor in 1985.

200 Black Sea Fleet ships raise Russian flag; Ukraine protests

MOSCOW (AP) — Three-quarters of former Soviet Navy ships in the Black Sea have raised the Russian flag in a flareup of the ownership dispute between Russia and Ukraine, news reports said Saturday.

Ukraine formally protested to Russia Friday and said the incidents endangered talks on dividing the nuclear-armed Black Sea Fleet, the ITAR-TASS News Agency said.

The nations have jostled over the fleet since the Soviet collapse. Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk agreed last year to take over joint command from the Commonwealth of Independent States, cooling the dispute while the sides tried to work out a solution.

But talks broke down this month, leading to a new battle of allegiances among servicemen and recriminations by leaders.

On Friday, 11 rescue ships and 11 oceanic-mapping vessels raised the St. Andrew's flag, bringing to 203 the number flying the official Russian naval banner since May 18, ITAR-TASS said, quoting a fleet commander.

Those ships constitute about 80 per cent of the fleet, which was designed to counter the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean. The Black Sea Fleet has about 300 ships manned by 70,000 sailors, and comprises about 9 per cent of all former Soviet naval forces.

Each nation accused the other of subverting the joint-command agreement in order to get control over the ships.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstantin Morozov accused Russian officers of goading sailors into raising the St. Andrew's flag in violation of the joint-command agreement, ITAR-TASS said Saturday.

The Russian military newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star) said Saturday that Ukraine's "crude and sometimes blatant pressure on sailors has backfired."

Russian flags were raised last week even by predominantly Ukrainian crews, according to Rear Adm. Boris Bogdanov, ITAR-TASS reported.

Ukrainian commanders claimed that Russian officers and politicians were trying to link the issue to a simmering dispute over the whole Crimean peninsula, which nationalists want returned to Russia.

Ukraine and Russia agreed in 1991 to let Ukraine keep the Crimea, which former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev transferred to Ukrainian jurisdiction in the 1950s. But some Russian lawmakers and activists insist Moscow take back the beautiful and strategic peninsula.

French Open

Courier moves ahead; Ivanisevic eliminated

PARIS (Agencies) — Flawless, devastating, unbeatable. Those were the words used to describe Jim Courier Friday as he survived his toughest test so far to reach the round of 16 at the French Open.

"I don't see him really losing on clay, to be honest," said Jeff Tarango, who became the first player this week to take a set off Courier but lost 6-1, 6-7 (2-7) 6-3, 7-5.

Courier's bid to win his third straight French Open title received a further boost when fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic was upset by Carlos Costa of Spain in four sets — 2-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-3.

The error-prone Croatian was the third high seed in Courier's half of the draw to be eliminated this week. The others were No. 4 Boris Becker and No. 9 Michael Chang.

No. 6 Petr Korda and No. 7 Ivan Lendl were ousted in early rounds in the other half of the draw, leaving only three of the top eight men still in contention: No. 1 Pete Sampras, No. 2 Courier and No. 3 Stefan Edberg.

In a suspended second-round match, Sampras completed a 7-5, 6-0, 6-3 victory over South Africa's Marcos Ondruska. Afterwards, he announced that he had received an apology from Andre Agassi for making a wisecrack comparing him to a monkey.

Those advancing to the fourth round were No. 9 Michael Stich, No. 12 Richard Krajicek, No. 13 Karel Novacek, No. 15 Thomas Muster, Goran Prpic and Cislav Dosedel.

In the women's competition, No. 1 Steffi Graf, No. 4 Conchita Martinez and No. 6 Jennifer Capriati were among the eight players making it to the round of 16.

Next up for Graf will be the tour's latest teen sensation, 15-year-old Croatian Iva Majoli. Capriati, who struggled to beat Florenda Labat 6-0, 3-6, 6-4, will meet No. 12 Mary Pierce in a replay of last year's fourth-round match.

Pierce became a centre of unwanted attention Friday when her father Jim was ejected from the stands and stripped of his credentials for screaming at his daughter during her three-set victory over Kimberly Po. It was the latest in a series of controversies involving Jim Pierce, known for his violent temper and high-pressure coaching of his daughter.

Even though he is a two-time defending champion, Courier was forced to play his second match in a row on tiny outside court 2. The court has seating for only several hundred people, but there were just as many fans standing rows deep to watch from walkways circling the bleachers.

"It doesn't really matter," Courier said. "I will get out there (on central court) if I keep playing well. I will get out there eventually."

15-year-old Majoli looks and plays like Seles

Teenage tennis starlet, born in what used to be Yugoslavia, coached by her father and brother, now based in Florida — Iva Majoli bears an uncommon resemblance to Monica Seles.

The powerful double-fisted backhand, bleached hair, slightly pinched features and distinct grunt must have Seles wondering whether to sue for breach of copyright.

And, like Seles, 15-year-old Croat Majoli is a product of the Nick Bollettieri Academy in Florida.

But while Seles languishes at home after the stabbing horror of Hamburg last month, Majoli is basking in the limelight of reaching the 16 at the French Open.

Majoli admits, however, that she cannot ignore the comparisons with Serbian-born Seles.

"Many people said when I came to Florida... that I looked like her, played like her," she said.

"I didn't mind because she's No. 1 and a great player. But I think it's better if you are your own player, not someone else, even if the



Jim Courier

other person is the best. We don't see each other much but we do say 'hi' when we do."

Majoli, dubbed "little Eva" despite being a strapping 1.74 metres tall, says her inspiration has been Martina Navratilova.

"She's unbelievable. I think she's the greatest," said Majoli, pronounced Moleye.

The Croat downed German 15th seed Sabine Hack Friday to go through to a round clash with top seed Steffi Graf.

"Steffi's a great athlete but Martina is the one I really like," she said.

Majoli has been in fine form in her last two matches, starting with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over American Louise Allen.

Her 6-0, 7-6 win against Hack preserved her record of not having dropped a set.

The second service ace she produced when facing a set point against her was even more revealing about her confidence.

Even Seles would be impressed at the gusto with which Majoli strikes every ball but watching her is scarcely a peaceful experience.

The explosion of air and emotion on each shot can make a passing plane sound irrelevant.

Her father Stanko, a former taxi driver in Zagreb, moved his family from Croatia to Florida three years ago.

Since then his daughter has found herself rubbing shoulders with fellow Bollettieri products such as Andre Agassi.

"When I have time I go to school," Majoli said. "But I still have time for my friends. I think I lead a normal life."

Those who wonder if winning \$75,000 in prize money before her 16th birthday encourages a normal personality should be comforted by her modesty.

"It feels great to be in the fourth round and I'm looking forward to playing well against Steffi. We'll see what happens," Majoli said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HIRSCH
© Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A K Q 8 4 2 ♣A J 10 7 4 ♦K 6 4 3
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 NT ?
What action do you take?

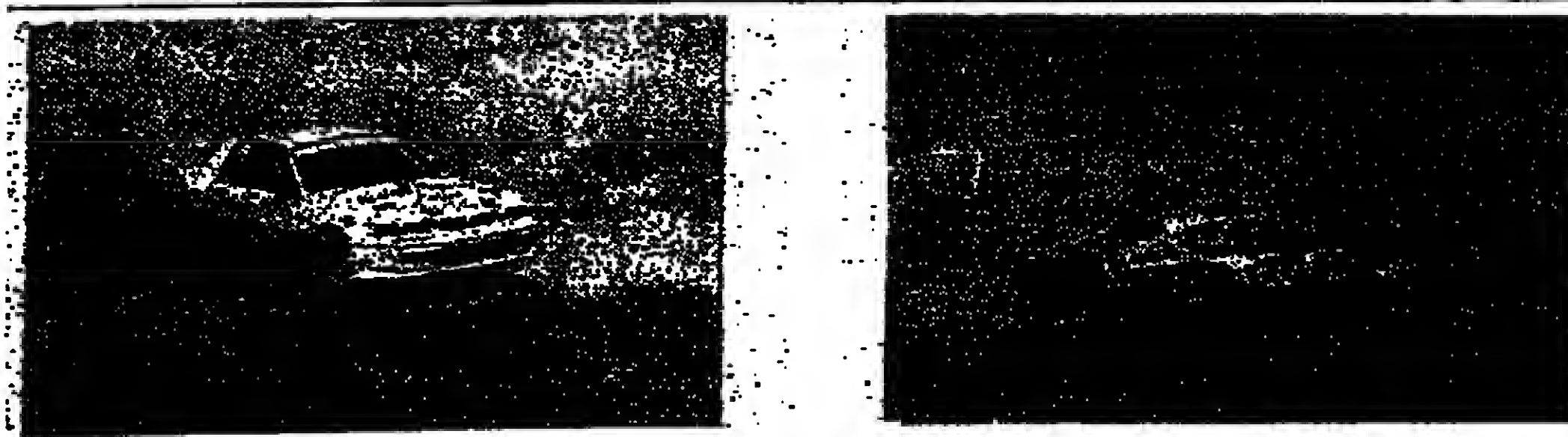
Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q 6 3 ♠A ♣Q 9 7 3 ♦A Q 9 6 5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J 8 ♠A 10 9 7 ♠A ♣A K J 5 4 3
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond.
What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J 6 ♠C 10 ♠A K Q 7 6 5 3 ♦A 8 7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Void ♠A K 9 8 5 3 ♠K 6 ♠A Q J 8 7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K 8 4 ♠Q J 8 7 3 ♦8 4 3 ♠7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ ?
What action do you take?



Hamad Ben Eid in a Mitsubishi Galant, and Saleh Al Baba in a Mitsubishi Celeste

Mitsubishi tops groups A+N & S in Jordan International Rally

AMMAN — Qatari star Hamad Ben Eid and co-driver Abdullah Al Mirri captured the Jordan Rally trophy in their Mitsubishi Galant VR-4 after a heated competition with 10 teams which completed the rally out of the original 27 which participated in groups (A+N).

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, chairman of the Auto Sports Committee was at the

Forte Grand Hotel to welcome the winners as they arrived at the finish ramp, and to congratulate them after he followed up all the stages of the rally.

In addition to the convincing results of groups A+N, Group S results were also pleasing. Promising Jordanian competitor Saleh Al Baba topped the group after tough competition with experienced drivers and captured the

title with co-driver Nabil Al Kurdi.

Provisional results:
★ First: Hamad Ben Eid Al Thani (Qatar) and co-driver Abdullah Al Mirri — Mitsubishi Galant VR-4

Results of Group S:
★ First: Saleh Al Baba (Jordan) and co-driver Nabil Al Kurdi — Mitsubishi Celeste.

World Cup qualifying matches

Jordan meets Pakistan; Iraq, China clash today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN MEETS PAKISTAN and Iraq clash with China Sunday on the final day of the first leg in the Asian Group A qualification matches for the 1994 World Cup.

The Iraqi team now tops the standings, and will be aiming to consolidate their grip to secure eventual qualification to the second round by staging a convincing win over favourites China.

Iraq have five points in the overall standings after impressive 8-0 and 6-1 wins over Pakistan and Yemen, and a 1-1 draw with Jordan.

China on the other hand, have four points, and lost the chance to top the standings when they surprisingly lost 1-0 to Yemen in their match Friday evening. China beat Pakistan and Jordan 5-0 and 3-0 and were expected to score a big win over newcomers, Yemen.

In the other match of the day, the Jordanian team, who has two points in the standings after drawing 1-1 with Yemen and Iraq, will be aiming to score an impressive convincing win over Pakistan.

They will however have a hard task as the team will be missing top striker Jiryes Tadros, who has two yellow card bookings, and Ahmad Abdul Qader who got a two-match suspension from the International Soccer Fed-



Jordan's national team

eration (FIFA) after attacking a Chinese player during Jordan's 3-0 loss to China. He will thus miss Sunday's match in addition to the match against Yemen in the second leg in Chengdu, China, June 12.

Jordan's team is also hindered by mounting injuries to key defenders Mohannad Mahadeen and Yusef Al Ammouri.

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Iraq	3	2	1	0	15	2	5
Yemen	4	2	1	1	8	8	5
China	3	2	0	1	8	1	4
Jordan	3	0	2	1	2	5	2
Pakistan	3	0	0	3	1	18	0

Suns get wakeup call, beat Seattle on road

SEATTLE (R) — The Phoenix Suns got a wakeup call and took back the homecourt advantage with a 104-97 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics Friday.

Kevin Johnson scored 20 points and Dan Majerle hit a key three-pointer with 38 seconds remaining as the Suns, who lost at home Wednesday, took a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven Western conference championship series.

The Suns won it in the fourth quarter.

The Sonics had closed within 100-96 with 1:28 left before Majerle's three-pointer, which came with one second left on the shot clock.

The game was tied 80-80 after three quarters but Phoenix reeled off 12 straight points to open the fourth quarter to take a 92-80 advantage.

Seattle responded with an 11-4 run to pull within 94-91 with 5:19 to go and closed to 97-95 with 2:48 left. Johnson then made one of two free throws but Barkley followed Johnson's miss with a lay-up to make it 100-95.

Derrick McKee made one of two free throws as Seattle moved within four before Majerle's three-pointer.

Johnson said the loss at home had rung the alarm bell for Phoenix.

"To be honest I think that

game two gave us a wakeup call, and I knew we'd play a great ball game," the giddy point guard said.

"We almost won game two playing as poorly as we did. It was a lackluster performance and still we almost won it."

"But then we realized that loss was the best thing for us at this particular juncture. Because from here on out in the Western Conference finals you're going to see a very aggressive and determined Phoenix Suns team."

Johnson, who had nine assists and just two turnovers, himself showed the most aggression and determination, despite a series of nicks and bruises.

"It was one of those games," he said. "I got a bruised thigh, I got hit in the eye a couple of times, cut on my wrist. It was a tough ball game but we gutted it out and took things under control."

He added: "In game three I had my mind made up I was going to be super aggressive on the offensive end."

Phoenix won despite an off scoring day for Charles Barkley, who finished with 16 points and 15 rebounds but managed just two points in the second half.

The Suns had seven players in double figures, showing the depth that gave them the NBA's best



Phoenix Suns' Richard Dumas Nozle sinks in slam dunk

regular-season record.

"Team balance and depth has been our strength all year long," said Johnson. "But in the playoffs we've been playing a lot of guys but we haven't seen the performances for some of the guys off the bench. I think they took this as an extreme challenge."

Ricky Pierce, who had 34 points in Seattle's 103-99 win Wednesday, had 28 points and Shawn Kemp chipped in 19 to lead the Sonics, who were 6-1 at home in the playoffs this season and had won five in a row. Game four is on Sunday afternoon at Seattle.

Dajani Jewellers

We open today, Sunday morning & evening as usual.
Closed Monday & Tuesday only
HAPPY FEAST

HISHAM HOTEL

We are pleased to announce the opening of our summer terrace as from Sunday, May 30.
Daily menu for lunch.
Daily evening barbeque.
A la carte lunch & dinner
Tel: 644028-642740

APARTMENT FOR RENT

A ground floor apartment consisting of three bedrooms and facilities, with garden and playground for children, central heating, water, electricity and telephone. Located behind Al Shmeisani Bakeries and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA); could be rented furnished or unfurnished.
For more information, please call tel. 688967 Mr. Sami.

CAR AVAILABLE

Duty not paid. Excellent condition.
Must sell by 3 June
Best offer accepted
Call 829520

Office For Sale
Apartment For Rent

Furnished or unfurnished office with telephone for sale in Jabat Amman, 4th Circle, near Al Khalidi Hospital
Two furnished apartments for rent in Tia'a Al Ali, Gardens Street
Call 750305

FOR RENT

Ground floor of a 2 floor villa for rent with or without furniture. Marj Al Hamam, Alia Housing District.
Enquiries. Starting Tuesday June 1.
Tel. 688860

T O D A Y	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 675571	Cinema	Tel.: 625155
	CONCORD	1. UNDER SIEGE 2. LOOK WHO'S TALKING	PLAZA	Happy Eid Al Adha Adel Inam — in The Forgotten Arabic	PHILADELPHIA	Happy Eid Al Adha 1. Patriot Games Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m. 2. Problem Child "2" Shows: 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m.	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	The Friends of the Book Society will organise a concert by Jafra Troupe for Folk Arts on Wednesday, June 2, at 5 p.m., and on Thursday, June 3, at 8 p.m.	AHLAN THEATRE	Happy Eid Al Adha On the occasion of Eid Al Adha 1. Welcome Parliament and Budget play on Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 and 9 p.m. 2. Welcome New World Order H9L9on Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 and 9 p.m.

Opposition takes early lead in Cambodia poll

PHNOM PENH (AP) — The opposition party Funcinpec, which has supported reconciliation rather than warfare with the fanatical Khmer Rouge, took an early lead Saturday in Cambodia's election.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt released the count of a total 10 per cent of the valid votes in four provinces including the capital. The figures showed Funcinpec with 54 per cent, the ruling Cambodian People's Party with 30 per cent and the opposition Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party with four per cent.

Cambodia has 21 provinces. The six-day U.N.-organised poll, aimed at ending nearly 13 years of civil war, concluded Friday. Final results in most provinces will be known by Sunday, Mr. Falt said.

"The government party has said it would treat the Khmer Rouge as insurgents if it won the election, raising fears of renewed warfare. Funcinpec, which is loyal to former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, has said it would rather negotiate with the fanatical guerrillas in the interest of national reconciliation, and perhaps involve them in power-sharing."

The United Nations Saturday recognised the election, Cambodia's first multi-party election since 1972, opening the way for formation of an internationally accepted post-war government.

"On behalf of the secretary-general and of the United Nations, I have no hesitation in declaring that the conduct of the elections was free and fair," said the U.N. peacekeeping mission chief, Yasushi Akashi.

All three main parties said Saturday they would honour the results of the election.

U.N. officials have worried the losers might not accept the outcome, and have stressed over the past two days that all parties agreed by participating in the election to honour its results.

The U.S. mission issued a statement saying that numerous independent observers saw no serious irregularities in the balloting, and Washington will recognise the results.

At a meeting with the three main parties, Mr. Akashi said 89 per cent of the country's 4.7 million registered voters cast ballots.

"In our view they did so without fear, in an atmosphere of calm that was almost completely free of violence and intimidation," Mr. Akashi said. "There was no significant disruption of the polling."

The election was for a 120-member constituent assembly that is to adopt a democratic constitution within three months, then form a government.

Mr. Akashi proposed setting up a body consisting of the winning parties to help guide the country until the new government is formed. It should be led by national reconciliation leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, he said.

Prince Sihanouk thanked the U.N. mission for its "historic success in the election process" but warned there could be violence when the results are announced.

"We might face difficulties, even in the military field," he told the meeting.

Spokesman denies Mubarak said cleric is a CIA agent

CAIRO (AP) — A spokesman for President Hosni Mubarak denied Saturday a government newspaper's report that the president said radical Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman works for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Mohammad Abdul Moneim, Mr. Mubarak's press secretary, told the Associated Press that Al Gomhuria, which printed the story on Thursday, was to print a retraction on Sunday.

He said the newspaper's problem resulted from "some mistake and misinterpretation."

"There were hundreds of reporters, and the only newspaper that published this was Al Gomhuria," Mr. Abdul Moneim said. "I didn't hear the president saying this."

The newspaper's editor, who said he wrote the article, told the AP he mistakenly attributed other people's comments to the president.

"Our meeting with the president was more of a discussion and exchange of viewpoints," editor Mahfouz Al Ansary said. "Some writers were expressing their views that Egypt should check newspaper reports that Sheikh Omar was a CIA agent since 1980. I wrote the article, and there was a mixup about who said what."

Mr. Mubarak held two meetings Wednesday to observe Media Day, an annual government celebration of Egyptian journalists. Around 600 people attended one session, selected editors, commentators and intellectuals the other.

"On such occasions Cairo's normally uncensored media are held closely to guidelines on what to report. After Wednesday's general session, for instance, Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif briefed journalists on which of the president's comments should be reported."

Mr. Ansary's unyielding article said the purported comments about Sheikh Abdul Rahman's services to the CIA were from senior journalists.

He (Abdul Rahman) appeared on American television

attacking me and insulting me. I did not answer him," Mr. Ansary quoted Mr. Mubarak as saying.

The sheikh has been a CIA agent since his days in Afghanistan. He still earns a salary.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, other U.S. officials and an attorney representing the blind cleric denied the assertion. Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who has lived in the United States since 1980, has been tried and acquitted three times in Egypt since on Muslim extremist charges. Mr. Mubarak's government accuses him of sponsoring extremist violence in Egypt the beginning of 1992 in which more than 150 people, mainly extremists and police, have died.

Suspects in the World Trade Centre bombing have worshipped at a New Jersey mosque where Sheikh Abdul Rahman, once charged in the assassination of Mr. Mubarak's predecessor Anwar Sadat, is a preacher.

Mr. Ansary also quoted Mr. Mubarak as saying the visa that Sheikh Abdul Rahman received from U.S. officials in Sudan "was not issued by mistake" as claimed by Washington but "because of services he did."

The newspaper also reported that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in charge of domestic security in the United States, disagrees with the CIA about Sheikh Abdul Rahman's presence. The blind sheikh is contesting attempts to deport him.

Despite denials in Cairo and Washington, Sheikh Abdul Rahman's presence in the United States is thought to be an irritant in close U.S.-Egyptian relations.

"There is a cloud, definitely," political commentator Mohammad Sid-Ahmad, whose politics are left of centre, said Saturday.

He told the Associated Press that Egypt feels the Clinton administration is less supportive of its problems or the Middle East peace process than previous administrations.

About Sheikh Abdul Rahman, he said, "there have been misunderstandings, misinterpretations and mutual recriminations."



UNDER SIEGE: Palestinian women return home carrying supplies from Israel to the occupied Gaza Strip after securing rarely issued Israeli permits to leave the occupied territories which have been under closure since late March

Sheikh Isa says Iran should show intention

BAHRAIN (AP) — The emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, was quoted Saturday as saying confidence and cooperation between the Gulf Arab states and Iran would end the need for foreign military presence.

"It matters for us to see good relations among all regional states because it matters for us to have stability in the region ... deriving from the good intentions and pursuit of high moral principles," he told the Kuwait daily Al-Sayassah. Excerpts of the interview were published simultaneously in Bahrain.

He said: "Neighbours must enjoy good relations and be concerned about their regional security, protect and fortify it, without need for help from anyone."

That, he said, provided "security arrangements become such that no feared the other and basis was good bilateral relations."

Sheikh Isa was responding to a question about the outcome of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Bahrain and other Gulf states earlier this month.

Iran has been calling for an end to the U.S.-led military presence in the region. It has deplored defence pacts signed between Arab states and Western powers, insisting that security of the oil-rich Gulf was the responsibility of its littoral states.

Saudi Arabia reaffirms rejection of Haj politics

MECCA (AP) — The kingdom said Saturday it would not allow political demonstrations or sloganeering in Mecca, two days after banning an anti-Western march by Iranian pilgrims.

Meanwhile close to 1.5 million white-robed pilgrims from throughout the Muslim world, emulating the Prophet Mohammad's practice, trooped the five kilometres from Mecca to the plains to Mina.

Saudi Arabia's decision to block the Iranian "deliverance from pagans" ceremony Thursday earned it two days of invective from Iranian leaders.

The flare-up over the rally, which Iran often uses as a vehicle to blast the United States and Israel, has harmed relations between the two Gulf oil giants — which had been improving quickly.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency quoted a responsible source, its term for a government spokesman, as saying the kingdom would not tolerate such rallies.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to reaffirm its categorical rejection of marches, groupings or demonstrations and anything along the lines of chanting, slogans and the carrying of pictures and banners in general," the source said.

The source said the kingdom "will not allow any party whatever it may be and at any time whatsoever, to violate religion

on its territory with what contradicts the Islamic faith or to undertake any act that upsets security of its lands."

Although Saudi Arabia has warned annually that it will not tolerate disturbances during the pilgrimage, Saturday's statement was the toughest and most specific so far.

For the past two years, the pilgrims have been allowed to stage the Shiite Muslim "deliverance from pagans" ceremonies, but only within a very restricted area. Also, the Iranians were required to live in an isolated pilgrims' camp.

This year, as a result of the improvement in relations, the pilgrims were given freedom of movement within the Mecca area with the understanding that their ceremonies would be held only in small groups. Saudi sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But the pilgrims' leader, Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshabari, instead issued a public call for the largest possible number of pilgrims to gather for the rally.

That, the sources said, is what prompted the Saudi authorities to move in and prevent the Iranians gathering in large numbers when they tried to do so Thursday.

Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Saturday blasted the Saudi ban. Tehran's official Islamic republic news agency said (see page 2).

Christopher condemns Iran as world pariah

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Condemning the current Iranian regime as an "international pariah," Secretary of State Warren Christopher says the United States will consult with its allies about further isolating Iran due to its terrorist tactics.

The secretary made the remarks Friday in a television interview on the Cable News Network that also covered the current state of the Middle East peace talks and the situation in Bosnia.

Concerning reports that substantial amounts of money have flowed from Iran to those accused of bombing the World Trade Centre in New York, Mr. Christopher said, "We're following that situation very closely, but we don't have any final conclusion."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

soring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion was the result of "state-sponsored terrorism," Mr. Christopher said, "We want to be very sure before we reach a conclusion like that." But he said "the level of hostility" between the United States and Iran "is very high right now."

"I think the conduct of Iran is such that they deserve to be made a pariah on the international scene," Mr. Christopher declared. "Their conduct in sponsoring terrorism elsewhere, their conduct in trying to assemble the weapons of mass destruction, their attitude towards their own people — human rights violations in their own country — I think fully justify the action the United States is taking toward Iran to isolate Iran."

Asked about an Egyptian newspaper report alleging that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, an alleged associate of those suspected in the World Trade Centre bombing, has been "an agent of American intelligence services," Mr. Christopher replied he is "quite confident" that "he has not been."

Mr. Christopher also said the United States is "very concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, and the fact that it does seem to be breeding-ground for terrorist activities around the world."

Regarding the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Christopher said "the negotiations were totally stalemated" when President Clinton came to office but the administration is "making good strides and working our way out of that problem... The United States is going to play its role of full partner. There will be new ground starting in June... I think there can be progress in 1993."

Asked whether the World Trade Centre explosion